Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-112
Friday
10 June 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-112 *10 June 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Text' of Israeli-Jordanian Documents *[AFP]* 1
MK Claims Peres, King Husayn Met in UK *[DAVAR 9 Jun]* 3
Meeting Said To Lead to 'Breakthrough' *[Jerusalem TV]* 3
Norway's Rod Larsen on Support for Self-Rule *[Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET 2 Jun]* 4

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 31 May 5

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Orders Closure of PLO Offices in Tunisia *[Rabat Radio]* 7
'Arafat on PLO Financial Crisis, Jerusalem, Health *[AL-QUDS 8 Jun]* 7
'Arafat May Visit Jericho at End of June *[Algiers VOP]* 8
Al-Husayni Reacts to Rabin Remarks on Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Disagreement Over Prisoner Entry to Jericho *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Jericho Mayor Resigns; Rumors of Arrest Denied *[AL-DUSTUR 10 Jun]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dembri Addresses OAU Foreign Ministers *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Cabinet Meets To Discuss Transitional Program *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Finance Minister Discusses Rescheduling Foreign Debt 10
Plans To Mobilize Credits *[Paris LE FIGARO 3 Jun]* 10
Hopes To Capitalize on Paris Club Deal *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Explains Repayment Schedule *[Algiers Radio]* 11
European Union To Release Loan Installment *[Algiers TV]* 12
Foreign Minister Receives Malaysian Counterpart *[Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA]* 12
Zeroual Message Marks Zeralda Summit Anniversary *[Algiers Radio]* 12

Egypt

MENA Reports Mubarak's CBS Interview 12
Musa Message to Christopher on Bosnia Conference *[MENA]* 13
Millions in Aid Extended to Palestinian Authority *[MENA]* 13
Sudan Asks Arab League To Ease Tension in Ties *[AL-WAFD 5 Jun]* 13
Brotherhood Leader Queried on Antigovernment Leaflets *[AL-WAFD 6 Jun]* 14
Correction to Opposition's Demand for Consultations 14

Libya

U.S. Told To 'Stop Interfering' in Yemen *[Tripoli TV]* 14
Western Countries Accused of Aiding 'Terrorists' *[Tripoli TV]* 14

Morocco

King Briefs New Cabinet on Virtues of Dialogue *[MAP]* 14
Israeli Delegation Visits for Economic Talks *[DAVAR 9 Jun]* 14
EU Commissioner van den Broek on Official Visit *[Rabat Radio]* 15
Arms-Smuggling Trial Continues *[MAP]* 15

Sudan

Foreign Minister Attends OAU Ministerial Council 15
Talks About Differences With Cairo *[MENA]* 15
Urges Restoring 'Trust' With Egypt *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Jun]* 16
Government Forces Open Southern Land Route *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Government Cooperation With Iran in Judicial Field *[SUNA]* 16
New Opposition Radio Causes 'Measures' Against Egypt *[AL-'ARABI 6 Jun]* 17

Western Sahara

Voter Identification for Referendum Postponed *[Algiers Radio]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Yemen

Paper Says 'Legitimate Forces' 'Inside' Aden *[INA]* 18
Interior Ministry Reduces Curfew Hours *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Southern Military Source Says Air Raid Killed 5 *[Aden Radio]* 18
Aden Reports Northern Forces Resuming Attacks *[Aden Radio]* 18
North's Artillery Targets Abyan-Lahij Axis *[Aden Radio]* 19
Northern Artillery Shells Aden Areas *[AFP]* 19
2 Reported Killed, 15 Wounded *[AFP]* 19
Salih Orders Relief Convoy to Aden Governorate *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Salih Sees No Future Without Unity *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Salih, UN's Brahimi Make Statements Following Meeting *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
UN Envoy Interviewed on Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 20
UN's Brahimi Meets Party Leaders, Urges Dialogue *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Brahimi Meets U.S., French Ambassadors *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
UN Committees To Begin Assessing Damage, Extending Aid *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
GPC Aide Says Recording of Salih Phone Conversation Faked
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Jun] 22
Foreign Minister Briefs House on Developments *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Al-Bid: Referendum Acceptable Under UN Supervision
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Jun] 23
Aden's al-'Attas Says Arab States Aiding North *[Al-Dammam AL-YAWM 8 Jun]* 24
Al-'Attas Visits Injured in UAE Hospitals 24
Aden To 'Strictly' Observe UN Cease-Fire Resolution *[Aden Radio]* 25
South's 'Foreign Minister' 'Satisfied' With GCC, U.S. Line
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Jun] 25
YSP Official on Fighting, U.S., Iraqi Stands *[AL-SHIRA' 6 Jun]* 25
'Official Source' Welcomes U.S., Arab Stands on Sanaa *[Aden Radio]* 27
Aden Claims Iraqis Involved in Conflict *[Aden Radio]* 27
Aden 'Minister' Praises Kuwaiti Coverage of War *[Aden Radio]* 27

IRAQ

Opposition Says Kurdistan Situation 'Under Control' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Jun]* 28
National Assembly Committee To Explain Sanctions *[INA]* 28
National Assembly Appeals To Lift Blockade *[INA]* 28
Iraq To Attend Shipping Company Meetings *[AL-THAWRAH 26 May]* 29
KDP Advocates UN Protectorate, Demilitarization *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Jun]* 29

ISRAEL

Palestinian Prisoner Release Continues *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Rabin: Jordan Demonstrates 'Readiness' for Treaty *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Peres Discusses Peace Process, Jerusalem *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
Alert in North; Sources Expect Resumed Shelling *[HA'ARETZ 9 Jun]* 34
Rabin Says No Meeting Held With Husayn 'This Week' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35

JORDAN

Al-Majali on Relations With Syria, 'Arafat *[London AL-HAYAH 7 Jun]* 36
Results of Washington Talks 'Step on a Long Road' *[AL-DUSTUR 9 Jun]* 37

LEBANON

Defense Minister on Army's Treatment of Resistance *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Fadlallah on U.S. Stand, Lebanese Situation *[AL-SHA'B 3 Jun]* 38
Iranian Official Meets al-Hariri, Comments on Ties *[Beirut Radio]* 40

SYRIA

Yemeni Minister Arrives, Expects Support *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Al-Asad Meets With Lithuanian Envoy *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Government Welcomes Christopher's Return Visit *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 42

SOUTH ASIA

India

Spokesman's Statement on Rao's Visit To Russia *[ISI]* 43
Efforts for Britons' Release; Abductors Condemned *[Delhi Radio]* 43

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference *[Tehran TV]* 44
Jannati Accuses Saudis of 'Blackmail' *[Tehran Radio]* 58

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Text' of Israeli-Jordanian Documents

NC0906144994 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 9 Jun 94

[All numbering and lettering as received]

[Text] Amman, June 9 (AFP)—Here is the full text of three documents signed Tuesday [7 June] by Israel and Jordan at bilateral talks in Washington, obtained by AFP here.

The documents were signed by the head of the Israeli negotiating team Elyaqim Rubinstein and his Jordanian counterpart Fayiz al-Tarawinah following two days of talks.

The documents make up a sub-agenda, outlining in detail issues set out in the joint Israel-Jordan common agenda for peace talks agreed by the two sides on September 14, 1993 in Washington.

The sub-agenda, which lays down joint Israeli-Jordanian projects, will form the basis for further bilateral talks which are expected to take place next month in either Israel or Jordan.

THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
THE BILATERAL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
THE JORDAN-ISRAEL TRACK
COMMON SUB-AGENDA

GROUP A - WATER, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In their pursuit of achieving the goal of the Jordan-Israel track of negotiations, Jordan and Israel have identified the components of their bilateral negotiations and have listed them under section B of the common agenda. Item B(7) addresses the phasing of the discussion, agreement and implementation of the agenda items including appropriate mechanisms for negotiations in specific fields. It is understood the two parties shall cooperate to achieve the goal.

Resolution of the issues of the conflict is to result in mitigation of the adverse impacts and damages resulting from the conflict.

Items of this sub-agenda listed hereunder respond to the intent of detailed discussions over the various issues in the subjects of water, energy, the environment and the Jordan Rift Valley, and provide practical steps to fulfill the objectives of items B(3), B(6)-A and B(7) of the common agenda.

I Surface water basins

A—Negotiation of mutual recognition of the rightful water allocations of the two sides in Jordan River and Yarmuk River waters with mutually acceptable quality.

Securing the unimpeded flow of the mutually recognised rightful allocations of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel respectively in Jordan and Yarmouk River waters with the above agreed quality through agreed conveyance systems.

B—Restoration of water quality in the Jordan River below Lake Tiberias to reasonably usable standards.

C—Protection of water quality.

II Shared groundwater aquifers

A—Renewable fresh water aquifers—southern area between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea.

B—Fossil aquifers—area between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea.

C—Protection of water quality of both.

III Alleviation of water shortage

A—Development of water resources.

B—Municipal water shortages.

C—Irrigation water shortages.

IV Potentials of future bilateral cooperation, within a regional context where appropriate

A—General

1. Nature protection, natural resources and biodiversity.
2. Air quality control, including general standards, criteria and all types of man-made hazardous radiation, fumes and gases.
3. Marine environment and coastal resources management.
4. Waste management including hazardous wastes.
5. Pest control.
6. Abatement and control of hazards to the environment.
7. Desertification.
8. Public awareness and environmental education.
9. Environmental management tools.
10. Natural disasters.
11. Indigenous energy resources development.
12. Energy generation, conventional and non-conventional, water needs and environmental considerations.
13. Electricity grid connection and oil pipelines.
14. Regional charters.

B—Jordan Rift Valley

1. Red Sea-Dead Sea canal.
2. Dead Sea chemical industries.
3. Management of water basins.
4. Development of geothermal resources.
5. Mining and mineral resources exploitation.
6. Industrial export processing zones.
7. Transportation facilities and infrastructures.
8. Agricultural development and operations.
9. Archaeology and tourism.
10. Inter-disciplinary activities in water, environment and energy.

THE JORDAN ISRAEL COMMON SUB-AGENDA SECURITY

In their pursuit of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and in fulfillment of the principle of respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the states in the region Jordan and Israel, in their negotiations leading to a treaty of peace as stipulated in Article C of the common agenda, have identified the components of their negotiations and have listed them under the section on security, based on Article B(2) of the common agenda, as follows:

1. The article "refraining from actions or activities by either side that may adversely affect the security of the other or may prejudge the final outcome of the negotiations," refers to the period throughout the negotiations leading to a peace treaty, as well as to the future relations between the parties under the treaty. It is agreed that negotiations should encompass a comprehensive range of security issues and should develop principles and means to deal with such issues.

2. Mutually agreed upon security arrangements.

(i) Discussion on security arrangements that can be implemented between the two states, including along the defined international boundary between Jordan and Israel based on Article B(5) of the common agenda.

(ii) Implementation mechanisms within a defined time frame will be agreed upon.

3. Threats to security resulting from all kinds of terrorism.

In fulfillment of the principle of "non-intervention or interference in internal affairs" and to preserve the stability of the peaceful relations, and security arrangements on the international boundary between Jordan and Israel, the following procedure is agreed:

(i) Identification of all possible terrorism threats, including cross-border terrorism and subversion.

(ii) Discussions on principles and means to deal with such threats.

4. Security Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

Respecting and complying with the agreed international boundary between Israel and Jordan, as defined in Article B(5) of the common agenda, the following is agreed:

(i) Discussions on military and other CBMs that will strengthen the agreed security arrangements and will promote peaceful relations.

(ii) Discussions on multilateral arms control confidence and security building measures, in the areas of exchange of military information and activities, that have a bilateral application.

(iii) Discussions on possible implementation mechanisms based upon a time frame.

5. Agreement on mutually satisfactory measures will form part of a treaty of peace.

6. Arms control and regional security.

Further to the agreements reached on security arrangements and various CBMs, in areas around the defined international boundary between Jordan and Israel, the parties will develop mechanisms for coordination on issues pertaining to arms control and regional security, in accordance with relevant agreements reached in the multilateral working group on arms control and regional security.

THE JORDAN ISRAEL COMMON SUB-AGENDA BORDERS AND TERRITORIAL MATTERS

In their pursuit of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and in fulfillment of the principle of respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the states in the region Jordan and Israel, in their negotiations leading to a treaty of peace, as stipulated in Article C of the common agenda, have identified the components of their negotiations on borders and territorial matters, based on Article B(5) of the common agenda, as follows:

The parties will achieve the settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with reference to the boundary definition under the Mandate, without prejudice to the status of any territories that came under Israeli military government control in 1967. Both parties will respect and comply with the above international boundary, preserve the peaceful coexistence along the boundary, creating a living, warm reality for the benefit of the people of both sides.

The following procedure is agreed, and is to be applied in the negotiations to be held in the region.

(a) Agreement to establish a joint mechanism (a boundary sub- commission of the commission on security, boundaries, water, environment and other related issues), whose objective will be to assist in arriving at a settlement of borders and territorial matters.

(b) The sub-commission will initially prescribe the modalities of preparing joint maps of the region of the boundary and any additional material, including, as appropriate, a joint survey for this purpose.

The joint maps shall be in English and shall reflect physical features of the areas along the boundaries between the two states.

(c) The sub-commission will further advise the respective parties on the ways to reach agreement as to the process set forth in Article B(5) of the common agenda.

(d) Once agreement is reached the sub-commission will be responsible for the preparation of the procedures for delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel, and will perform those tasks.

(e) The proposed mechanism will work in close conduction with the security sub-commission in order to ensure that coordination takes place. This will facilitate more detailed discussions, taking place in parallel, on all issues pertaining to bilateral security arrangements on and in the areas close to the defined international boundary based on Article B(5) of the common agenda.

(f) The negotiations on the mutually satisfactory solutions of the boundary issues will be finalized in a treaty of peace, as stipulated in Article C of the common agenda.

MK Claims Peres, King Husayn Met in UK

TA0906151994 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Daniyel Ben-Simon and Moti Bassok]

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Ra'anan Kohen, member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, claims that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordan's King Husayn held a secret meeting in London. According to Kohen, the two leaders met on 2 June to wrap up the details of the negotiations between the two countries.

MK Kohen yesterday queried Minister Peres: "I learned from foreign sources," Kohen writes, "that the foreign minister met King Husayn in London on Thursday, 2 June. I was told that during the meeting, the directions of the negotiations between us and Jordan were agreed on."

In his query to Peres, Kohen notes that "the efforts to promote the negotiations with Jordan deserve praise and encouragement. I would like to ask: Is this report true? If it is, what can you tell us about the proceedings of the meeting? Does the honorable minister believe that progress on the Jordanian track is linked to progress in contacts with Syria?"

Two days ago, Minister Yosi Sarid said he believes that the negotiations with Syria are now in high gear. He believes that Peres met central figures during his tour abroad in order to promote the negotiations. Sarid noted that he does not know of a meeting in London between Peres and Husayn. He stressed that Prime Minister Rabin was the key figure in drafting the understandings between Israel and Jordan. Sarid expressed his certainty that the understandings with Jordan were made with Syria's knowledge, and that the negotiations between Israel and Syria are making satisfactory progress.

Moti Bassok reports that the Foreign Ministry determinately refused to comment on the Peres-Husayn meeting. It is worth noting that in the tripartite meeting with the Israeli and U.S. delegations in Washington on 6 and 7 June, the Jordanian delegation showed much openness and willingness to advance which very much surprised its interlocutors.

A senior Israeli delegation source noted that there is no doubt that the Jordanian delegation was given explicit instructions from King Husayn to pull the cart of negotiations with Israel out of the mud they have been stuck in since 14 September 1993, and to move forward on many areas, including the sensitive issue of borders.

According to the source, Husayn fears that if he continues his foot-dragging policy, the Palestinians and the Syrians would leave him behind without an agreement with Israel and in a very sensitive security and political situation. It appears that Husayn was also given a go-ahead from the Syrians because it is very important for President al-Asad to be portrayed as working toward a comprehensive Middle East arrangement and as caring for the entire Arab world.

Meeting Said To Lead to 'Breakthrough'

TA0906180494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Yaron Deqel on 9 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that high-level sources have confirmed that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a secret meeting with King Husayn a few days ago. It was that meeting which led to the breakthrough in the talks between Israel and Jordan. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel today asked the prime minister about the secret contacts. Yitzhaq Rabin neither confirmed nor denied the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Deqel] Mr. Prime Minister, has progress with Jordan been achieved in the wake of some type of secret talks which were held recently?

[Rabin] I will not address myself to the reasons that led to this progress. I think there are many reasons, the main one being Jordan's willingness to make slow moves toward a peace treaty. Will this treaty be signed before progress is made with Syria, or not? I do not have an answer. [end recording]

[Later during the broadcast, political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen relays a live report from Tel Aviv, stressing that "the recent breakthrough with Jordan was surely not accidental. A process of several weeks, of three weeks at least, involving secret contacts, away from the media, had taken place. The details of the recent meeting in Washington were concluded more than two weeks ago. Incidentally, even some of the delegation members were not aware of the nature of the agreement. In short, we were told by high-level sources that a meeting did take place between Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn. The

prime minister's bureau refuses to confirm this meeting, but states that very high-level contacts indeed took place."]

Norway's Rod Larsen on Support for Self-Rule

PM0606155094 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 2 Jun 94 p 8

[Report on interview with Terje Rod Larsen, UN assistant secretary general responsible for the Middle East, by Bjorn Lindahl in Oslo on 1 June]

[Text] Oslo—"As of yesterday Israel stopped paying for the civilian administration in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. What is important now is that the money from the rest of the world arrives in the bank so that the Palestinian police force can be paid its wages and can find somewhere to live. The situation in Gaza is very serious."

So said Terje Rod Larsen, the new UN assistant secretary general with responsibility for the Middle East. Wednesday [1 June] should have been his first working day, but a funeral in Oslo meant that he asked for a postponement for a couple of days and together with his wife and close aide, Mona Juul, he found time for an interview with SVENSKA DAGBLADET. For the past nine months the two have been involved in what has been called family therapy between Israel and the PLO.

We met at Terje Rod Larsen's office at Fafo, the Trade Union Center for Research, Investigation, and Documentation where he was the director before he was appointed a Norwegian Foreign Ministry ambassador and subsequently one of the five UN assistant secretaries general.

Mona Juul works as head of division at the Norwegian foreign minister's office.

Together they formed the core of the secret Oslo channel which led to the agreement in principle on Palestinian self-rule. Since the results of this work became known, the role of the channel has decreased.

"But the need for a non-public channel remains. As recently as last night I was contacted by one of the sides," Terje Rod Larsen said. It is uncertain what will happen to the channel in the future.

"Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal has already had several meetings with both sides and is available if the sides wish it," Mona Juul said.

It is not only in the Middle East conflict that Norway plays a key role. In June peace talks between the guerrillas and the government in Guatemala will begin in Oslo. There is also an ambition that Norway should mediate in conflicts in Sudan and Sri Lanka, as well as in the former Yugoslavia, where former Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg is UN mediator.

Just as the Norwegian media showed little restraint when it came to giving Norway the credit for the fact that Israel and the PLO finally reached a peace agreement, there has been tide of small-minded criticism inside the Norwegian Foreign Ministry recently that too many resources are being used on peace work in distant countries which does not benefit Norway economically.

"There is not enough shopkeeping and too much ideology and missionary work at the Foreign Ministry. We have clearly taken over Sweden's role as everyone's benefactor. The Swedes have scaled down the moral steering of their international relations," a Norwegian Foreign Ministry official pointed out.

For Terje Rod Larsen a view like this borders on the absurd:

"The Oslo channel was a 'low-budget film' where the costs were limited to the wages of three to four people and airline tickets.

"The United States has spent more than $50 million on the multilateral peace negotiations without any results." According to Larsen, these were doomed to failure.

"The Americans skipped the first stage of international negotiations which consists in sounding out in what areas there is a desire to reach an agreement. The PLO has a delegation of 160 in Washington, and Israel has a similar number. The whole thing turned into a permanent press conference at which both sides were simply speaking to their home publics.

"There is something called press freedom, but freedom from the press can be just as important for the democratic process. If the sides are not given time to build confidence in each other, it is impossible to achieve results," Larsen said.

"But it is important that nothing is concealed afterward, once the sides have reached agreement. That is why we have tried to be as open as possible afterward," Mona Juul added.

The appointment of Terje Rod Larsen as assistant secretary general has also been criticized as an attempt by the United Nations to buy some of the glory surrounding the Oslo agreement.

"The United Nations would never have been able to play a role like the one Norway played. The Israelis have always been very skeptical toward the United Nations and have often felt unjustly treated, because they have had the majority of members against them in the General Assembly so many times," Mona Juul pointed out.

Norway's involvement in the autonomous Palestinian areas is greater than that of any other country. As well as the informal channel Norway is also responsible for coordinating foreign aid to the autonomous areas and to the police force.

Norway also has the largest group of observers in Hebron and is represented in the multinational peace negotiations which are held in Washington.

In money terms Norway will donate 250 million kronor [currency not specified] over 5 years.

"I will continue to work in all four areas, but as a representative of the United Nations," Terje Rod Larsen said. Within a month he expects that with the help of the heads of the UN body for aid for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency], development body UNDP [United Nations Development Program], and Unicef he will put forward a plan for the coordination of the work of the United Nations.

"UNRWA is the biggest UN organization and has 8,000 employees on the West Bank and in Gaza. Alongside the Palestinian administration it will play a major role in the work of building up the economies of the Palestinian areas.

"In the short term the new Palestinian administration is facing the acute problem that while the international aid group has promised $2.2 billion—or 14 billion kronor—in aid over five years, almost none of this is in the bank. There is only the $2 million which Norway has given, $5 million from the United States, and a promise of 10 million Ecu (91.14 million kronor) from the EU [European Union] that has not yet been paid out to run the Palestinian police force, which when complete will consist of 9,000 policemen.

Each policeman is expected to cost $1,600 per month—and this means that the total cost per year will be around $170 million.

"The police force is crucial if chaos is to be prevented in Gaza. If the police do not receive money for themselves and their families, their loyalty will rapidly evaporate. It has even been necessary to distribute Israeli military rations to provide food for the day. In addition the Palestinian administration takes over responsibility for the 7,000 Palestinians who were employed by the Israeli military administration.

"Norway has called a very important meeting of the aid-giving nations in Paris for 9-10 June. At this meeting they will have to demonstrate a willingness to redirect some of the money they have promised so that a larger share can be used to meet day-to-day costs. The problem is that most countries have taken the money from their aid budgets and have tied it to specific projects," Terje Rod Larsen said.

Next on Terje Rod Larsen's agenda are talks in New York with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the U.S. Administration. A reconnaissance tour of the autonomous areas will follow.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 31 May

NC0906112394

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 31 May issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summerizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

Contents:

1. 'Ulemas Talking to Repentant Youths Interviewed
2. Mufti Reconciled With Opponents
3. Awqaf Minister Reports on Pilgrimage
4. Pilgrims, Saudi Government Blamed for Mecca Chaos
5. Columnist on Uselessness of Dialogue With Repentant Youths
6. Al-Azhar Shaykh Notes Need To Educate Youths in Islam
7. Article Terms Age 'Age of Dialogue'
8. Islamic Media Evaluated as Low-Voiced
9. Islamic University Professor Interviewed
10. Columnist Angry Over Media Unfairness Toward Egypt
11. Chief Editor Defends Newspaper's Stances on Islam

'ULEMAS TALKING TO REPENTANT YOUTHS INTERVIEWED

Page 1 carries a summarized 150-word report on the "dialogue" recently broadcast over television between 'ulemas and professors from al-Azhar University and "repentant youths." The moderator of the dialogue was Hilmi al-Buluk, who explains the "secrets behind this dialogue" to 'AQIDATI. He says the idea of a dialogue was born "when a large number of youths announced that they have returned to the correct and righteous religion and renounced extremism."

Pages 10 and 11 carry a detailed report on interviews with Hilmi al-Buluk and some of the 'ulemas and professors who participated in the dialogue. Al-Buluk says: "The idea of holding these meetings stemmed from the desire of a group of youths currently serving their prison sentences to discuss their experiences. We immediately responded to this need." He maintains that when the dialogue went on for over six and a half hours, he offered to stop it, but the youths themselves were keen on continuing. He explains how the 'ulemas who conducted this dialogue were chosen. "The 'ulemas for the most recent meetings were professors at al-Azhar University, who are, undoubtedly, highly educated and well-versed in jurisprudence, each in his own field," al-Buluk adds.

Dr. Nash'at 'Abd-al-Jawad, professor of philosophy and doctrine at al-Azhar University, claims that the "responsibility for aggravating this extremist thinking is a joint one between al-Azhar and the state." He accuses the state of not having "paid any attention to al-Azhar's 'ulemas, and placed them in the tenth rank." The state realized it had to find another way to confront this problem, he says, so it resorted to freedom of expression

of ideas and discussion with clarity and frankness. It "could not find anyone better than the al-Azhar 'ulemas to express themselves in this language," 'Abd-al-Jawad states. He concludes that they were interested in listening to the youths and in making the youths hear their opinions, "and whoever is more capable of convincing the other party will obviously win, and that course will be adopted."

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Sami' Jad, professor of Islamic call and education, clarifies: "The most important short-term result of this open dialogue and frank discussion is the response of these youths whose minds were fogged up. The long-term results include the increased turnout of the youths to such meetings of their own free will to rectify their thinking after realizing the error in their ways. Officials in all sectors must increase the number of such meetings because the youth comprise 60 percent of Egypt's population."

Jad accuses those who initially called for dwarfing the role of al-Azhar and its 'ulemas, and distancing them from participating in and expressing their opinion on events, of being the major reason for spreading such erroneous thinking. "It is time," he announces, "for people to get the correct Islamic knowledge from the true source and from the specialized 'ulemas."

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fadil al-Qawsi, another religion professor at Cairo University, explains that from this dialogue emerged the fact that these youths were misinterpreting a set of Koranic verses stipulating how the government should be run. He maintains that certain factors—unemployment, lack of religious awareness—made them susceptible to influence from any ideas cloaked with a veneer of religion. He also stresses that the Islamic media could be an eye-opener for these youths and could guide them back to the path of righteousness. The report concludes with a statement by al-Azhar Professor Dr. Isma'il al-Daftar who says that they are always ready to talk to the youths if given the chance to do so.

MUFTI RECONCILED WITH OPPONENTS

Page 1 also carries a short 100-word report by Mahmud 'Ushub that 'AQIDATI has learned that al-Azhar University professors have managed to reconcile Mufti of the Republic Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi with Dr. Sha'ban Isma'il and others regarding the dispute between them, which had reached the courts. Both sides have agreed to resolve the matter out of court.

AWQAF MINISTER REPORTS ON PILGRIMAGE

A 100-word report on page 1 says the awqaf minister is preparing a detailed report for the prime minister on the activities of this year's pilgrimage delegation to Mecca. The report contains the positive and negative aspects of this pilgrimage. It also proposes forming an independent agency to organize the Egyptian pilgrimage.

PILGRIMS, SAUDI GOVERNMENT BLAMED FOR MECCA CHAOS

Samir Rajab's 400-word column "Rightfully I Say" on page 1 blames both the pilgrims and the Saudi Arabian Government for the chaos during the pilgrimage in Mecca, which leads to many deaths each year. He says the Saudi Arabian Government should organize processions better. He calls for improving conditions at the pilgrimage site.

COLUMNIST ON USELESSNESS OF DIALOGUE WITH REPENTANT YOUTHS

Basyuni al-Halawani's 700-word column "In All Frankness" on page 6 entitled "Dialogue With the Repentant Youths and the Morals We Have Learned" maintains that this dialogue is useless since these youths have already joined the righteous path. He proposes that "effective dialogue from which we expect results should be with the other elements who still believe in the ideas of violence and extremism." Continuing, he recommends that confronting terrorism should take place on many levels. Once the security level succeeds, confronting extremist and terrorist thinking is the responsibility of the 'ulemas and Islamic intellectuals. "The real confrontation of extremist thinking," he concludes, "dictates that we should confront those people who hoist slogans on the freedom of thinking and expression and attack everything that is Islamic. They are no less dangerous than the terrorists who carry arms and kill innocent people."

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH NOTES NEED TO EDUCATE YOUTHS IN ISLAM

Page 7 carries an article by al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq who advocates that the youth in Egypt should be taken care of and educated properly in religion so that they do not misinterpret religious texts or behave contrary to God's teachings. He cites many Koranic verses with regard to this point. He concludes that the first and final reference for correct Muslim behavior is the Koran itself and that by reading it and following its teachings correctly, we will be guided by its light.

ARTICLE TERMS AGE 'AGE OF DIALOGUE'

An article on page 11 entitled "The Age of Dialogue and Reconciliation Thinking" signed by the initials M.Y. praises the dialogue between al-Azhar 'ulemas and repentant terrorists. The writer notes: "With the number of returning youths, the Islamic call has gained a new group of people who have kept company with deviant thinkers, and learned about them and about their objectives and secrets. Therefore, they will be more competent and effective in spreading the call among their former brothers who have yet to return to the righteous path." The writer also notes that the preparatory meeting to form the national dialogue committee was held at the same time. "Both these meetings and others," he concludes, "clarify that we are now in an age that we can

safely call the 'Age of Dialogue.' Experience has proven to us that dialogue is the only way out for a nation from its crisis and problems."

ISLAMIC MEDIA EVALUATED AS LOW-VOICED

Page 18 is dedicated to Islamic media issues. In a 250-word report, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Sami' Shabanah, counselor at al-Azhar, evaluated Islamic media, claiming that it has "a very low voice." However, he believes that in comparison to other forms of media, the radio is "splendid." He then claims that visual Islamic media needs a great deal of work in order to rise to the required level.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR INTERVIEWED

Page 20 features an interview by Tariq 'Abdallah with Dr. 'Abd- al-'Aziz al-'Ubaydi, professor of Islamic history at the social sciences college in al-Imam Muhammad Bin Sa'ud Islamic University. He analyzes the dangers to the Islamic nation from outside, such as cultural and economic siege imposed by the enemy, and from inside such as inter-Muslim differences.

COLUMNIST ANGRY OVER MEDIA UNFAIRNESS TOWARD EGYPT

The same page carries a 200-word column by 'Adil Dayf in which he expresses his anger over the media's unfairness in reporting acts of violence in Egypt, as compared to reporting in the United States, Europe, Russia, and the former Soviet republics. He concludes that the reason for this is: "The media's total bias to the West, total disregard for our nation, and complete hostility to us." He addresses western media asking them "not only to be fair, but to be just and to reveal the truth, no more." He closes his column by claiming that security in Egypt is much better than that in any other developing or non-developing country.

CHIEF EDITOR DEFENDS NEWSPAPER'S STANCES ON ISLAM

On the back page of 'AQIDATI, Chief Editor Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf writes his "A Call To Reason" column in which he defends his newspaper and refutes claims that it is the "civilian wing of terrorism." He highlights the fact that the newspaper's objective from the beginning was to enlighten people about true Islam. He uses the recent dialogue between the 'ulemas and repentant terrorists as an example to show that the 'ulemas are the prime source on Islam. The 'ulemas are the ones "capable of guiding our youths, who have the seeds for real belief in their hearts, by the hand from the path of sin to the path of righteousness, from hostility to society to reconciliation with it, from killing and destruction to repair and construction." Defending the 'ulemas' role in educating the people and propagating the true religion, he concludes: "These dialogues very clearly order the rats of culture to go into their holes or stop their fervent screams heard by no one but themselves."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Orders Closure of PLO Offices in Tunisia

LD0906213994 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] As the Palestinian issue develops, and in preparation for the move to the self-rule area in Jericho, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat ordered the closure of the PLO Central Committee's offices in Tunisia next week.

The source who announced the news said orders have been issued to more than 600 Palestinian administrative and security officials at the beginning of sthe week, pointing out that President 'Arafat will temporarily keep his offices and place of residence in the Tunisian capital.

The transfer process will not include the PLO Political Department, which is being kept in Tunisia to coordinate between the Palestinian national authority and the international community and to look after the affairs of the Palestinians living abroad.

The source neither specified the time of the move nor the number of officials who will accompany President 'Arafat to Jericho.

'Arafat on PLO Financial Crisis, Jerusalem, Health

NC0906205494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Jun pp 1, 18

[Report by 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Barghuthi from Tunis]

[Text] Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that he will not deceive his people regarding the deteriorating financial situation that the PLO is experiencing. In an interview with AL-QUDS, he asked: How could I enter my country with this deadly financial crisis? I must have something in my hand with which I will be able to ease the suffering of my struggling people. Nevertheless, the date of my return and the return of the Palestinian leadership will be determined shortly, God willing. We will announce this to all in due time.

'Arafat said: The donor states will meet tomorrow. I will attend the meeting to secure approval for the aid that the donor nations will provide when they set a definite date, despite their several considerations and their relatively harsh bureaucracy, which requires that they must await the result of their study of our projects and our return to the homeland.

He added: We will remind the donor states that they must keep their promises. We must not let them promise us and then not keep their promises. They have promised us funds to help us build our future state. It is the future and the obligations it incurs. We must continue our efforts with these states to persuade them of our projects, our country's infrastructure, and the state it has reached.

On his view of the Palestinians' future and what the masses should do to contribute to this future, Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] said: Our future is proceeding, God willing, in steady steps toward better times. Having set foot on our chaste land, we will achieve what we have all aspired to in terms of establishing a state, stability, freedom, and democracy. Naturally, this will be achieved through the cohesion and solidarity of all the sons of our people, the ending of hatred, and the unification of efforts to build with strong fists, which will continue to work day and night. We will not look backward but always forward, leaving behind us the false slogans and the subversive and tendentious rumors.

Regarding the Israelis' attempts to impose a fait accompli that Jerusalem is their capital, he said that holy Jerusalem is in his conscience, mind, and heart. He said that as long as there is a Declaration of Principles and an agreement to discuss the issue of Jerusalem, whatever the Israelis say is for local consumption and to satisfy the motives of various sectors of the Jewish people.

He said: They use the Torah as a reference. We use what is much more recent, the "Umari Covenant" [Pledge by Caliph 'Umar Ibn-al- Khattab who opened Jerusalem in 637 A.D.]. Holy Jerusalem is occupied and is an indivisible part of the territories occupied in 1967. All the states of the world approve this principle. They also approve the principle of withdrawal from the occupied territories in return for peace.

He said that regardless of the passage of time, there will be no abandonment of our holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state. There is no need for anyone to reassure us. With our own efforts, no matter how tiring they may be, our Jerusalem will remain for us.

On the rumors circulating regarding his health, the Palestinian leader said that he is well and in good health. It was a passing illness. He said: We will not pay attention to the hostile rumors. We must always try with all our efforts and with our people's very high ethics to turn the foes into helpers. We are a people with high ideals and we love everyone. Our honorable motives are to build our country. We extend our hand in peace to the whole world without exception.

Concluding, he said: How great are our Palestinian people with their ethics, morals, and struggle. How can I not be in good health when the people are with me and I am with them? I sincerely pray to God to enable me to do my best to serve this magnanimous people.

'Arafat May Visit Jericho at End of June

LD0906180994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Brother Faysal al-Husayni, member of the Palestinian National Authority, yesterday said that the Palestinian leader, President Yasir 'Arafat, could arrive in Jericho at the end of this month. Al-Husayni added that 'Arafat's arrival depends on the results of today's meeting between Palestinian officials and officials representing donor countries in Paris.

The donor countries have pledged over $2 billion to the Palestinian self-ruled areas over a period of five years, but so far only $5 million have come from the United States. The latter had promised to give $500 million.

In a statement to the press, al-Husayni said that he could not give a precise date for 'Arafat's arrival in Jericho, but added: I hope that this will be in the second half of this month.

In reply to a question on whether the timing of 'Arafat's arrival is linked to the conference of donor countries in Paris, al-Husayni said: There is a link of this kind. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Reacts to Rabin Remarks on Jerusalem

TA0906151394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] The prime minister said this morning that Faysal al-Husayni would have to move to Jericho if he planned to run autonomy affairs. Surprisingly enough, Faysal al-Husayni did not reject the suggestion. Here is what he told Qol Yisra'el's English department correspondent Dick Winter:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] I do not know if it was meant as a threat. In any event, if Mr. Rabin means that I should leave my home here and move to Jericho, I do not think it is a statement [preceding word in English] he should have made.

[Winter] What about your office?

[Al-Husayni] If he was referring to the offices, I have an office right here, where I conduct activities that are part of the peace process [preceding two words in English]. I will pursue that part which is not related only to the interim agreement. If, however, he was referring to activities pertaining to the Palestinian rule, then we can discuss the matter and see how to proceed. [end recording]

Disagreement Over Prisoner Entry to Jericho

TA1006055494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Excerpts] The drama that started when the Palestinians learned that 286 prisoners—including 128 people who had served life terms—would be released and transferred to the autonomy ended at the entrance to Jericho at daybreak. We have learned once again that agreements reached between Israel and the Palestinians are not implemented automatically. The prisoner release followed an understanding reached between Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami' and General Ziyad al-Atrash, the

leaders of the supreme liaison committee, but the Palestinian leadership in Judaea and Samaria complained about it to 'Arafat, claiming it violates the Cairo agreement. In response, 'Arafat fired Gen. al-Atrash, who is based in Gaza, and replaced him with Gen. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Yihya.

At the same time, the Palestinians in Jericho were told to block the roads and prohibit any of the freed prisoners from entering. The outcome was an inevitable confrontation between Israeli and Palestinian representatives at the Vered Yeriho junction, at the entry to the autonomy. The first bus with 18 prisoners entered Jericho despite the roadblock, and the prisoners alighted at the Hanan camp, but the Palestinian policemen loaded them onto police vehicles and returned them to the regional liaison office.

Faysal al-Husayni, Jamil al-Tarifi, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Jibril al-Rujub, and General al-Hajj Isma'il arrived at the site and informed the Israeli representatives that there was no agreement. Only those who had served life terms would enter Jericho, and the others would be sent to their homes, they said. They negotiated for some five hours at the entry to the regional liaison office at the Vered Yeriho junction, while approximately 270 prisoners waited on buses near Jericho and another 20 waited near the negotiators at the liaison office.

During the negotiations, telephone consultations were held with Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and the prisoners' leader in Nabulus prison. At daybreak, the Palestinians proposed a compromise whereby all the released prisoners would enter Jericho except for 13, who would be sent to their homes in Judaea and Samaria, on condition that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's bureau would send a reply within 48 hours to their request to meet with Rabin on this issue. The proposal was later accepted in a discussion with Major General Shahaq. Thirteen prisoners who did not serve life terms were sent to their homes in Judaea and Samaria, and the remainder entered Jericho.

At the conclusion of the extended negotiations, Colonel Herzl, a member of the liaison committee, said that to him this was not a compromise but the implementation of the agreement reached with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

During the negotiations, the released prisoners pressured their leaders to make sure that they are not returned to jail. Although their proposal was accepted, the Palestinian leaders were far from pleased.

[Begin recording] [Amir] Are you satisfied?

[Al-Tarifi] No, I am not satisfied.

[Amir] Why?

[Al-Tarifi] Because they are cheating us. [end recording]

On the other hand, Faysal la-Husayni said they would uphold the agreement reached:

[Begin recording] [al-Husayni] There is an agreement. We will make sure that something good comes out of it.

[Amir] Do you hope to receive an answer from the prime minister within 48 hours?

[Al-Husayni] I hope that something good will come of it. [end recording]

Jericho Mayor Resigns; Rumors of Arrest Denied

JN1006102094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jun 94 p 24

[Report by Muhammad 'Amirah in Jericho]

[Text] Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf has tendered his resignation to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat without stating the reasons. Although President 'Arafat rejected the resignation and asked Khalaf to remain in his post until general elections are held next month, Khalaf has decided to stay at home.

Lieutenant Colonel Munthir Irshayd, the Palestinian Administration official in Jericho, who was appointed to this position by 'Arafat after the implementation of the first phase of self-rule, has denied Israeli media reports about the arrest of the mayor.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Irshayd said such Israeli rumors are part of Israel's psychological warfare and that the man (Khalaf) chose to stay at home without any coercion or pressure.

Algeria

Dembri Addresses OAU Foreign Ministers

LD0906225194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri delivered a speech which revolved around the issues of Palestine and Middle East issues. The main points of this address are in a report prepared by Mohamed Soukou:

[Begin Soukou recording] In his address to the OAU foreign ministers, Mohamed Salah Dembri highlighted Algeria's support for the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate national rights, considering the Washington agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho as the first step toward imposing peace in the Middle East region.

On the other hand, he considered the agreement signed in Cairo on the implementation of this verdict an important achievement toward the establishment of Palestinian authority in reality within the framework of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

When he reviewed the situation in the Middle East, Dembri pointed out that Algeria saw that the peace process in the Middle East necessarily hinged on a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

At the end of his speech, Dembri called on the African countries to send a collective call to the peace-loving countries in the Middle East and the international community to support the peace process in the region. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Cabinet Meets To Discuss Transitional Program

LD0906085194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] The cabinet met yesterday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, according to a statement released by the prime minister's department. The statement says the cabinet studied the preliminary plan for the transitional program, which will form the basis for government activity during the next three years.

The statement adds that following a fruitful discussion on the aims of the program and the conditions for achieving it, the cabinet agreed to hold further discussion on some subjects. The goal is to incorporate measures necessary for the mobilization of the greatest potentials and the rational use of all resources, thus allowing a genuine revival of the national economy and answering the preoccupations of the people.

Finance Minister Discusses Rescheduling Foreign Debt

Plans To Mobilize Credits

BR0306111094 Paris LE FIGARO (LE FIG-ECO Supplement) in French 3 Jun p I

[Interview with Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour by Gerard Nicaud; place and date not given: "Quickly Mobilize Our Credits"]

[Text] [Nicaud] You signed an agreement with the Paris Club on Thursday [2 June] evening. Are you satisfied?

[Benbitour] The rescheduling is based on an economic program that was examined with the IMF. The agreement we signed with the Paris Club reduces the foreign debt by $5 billion (out of a total of $26 billion—LE FIG-ECO editorial note). As we hope that these credits will be made available quickly, the rescheduling should make it possible for us to finance the program.

[Nicaud] When taking the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Union into account, how much money do you hope will be made available?

[Benbitour] A total of $1 billion from the IMF, another $1 billion from the other institutions, and $5 billion from the rescheduling. This does not include bilateral assistance in the form of commodity credits.

[Nicaud] Did France make a special effort?

[Benbitour] France stated that it would maintain the level of the financing facilities that it has previously made available to us (5-6 billion French francs—LE FIG-ECO editorial note). However, the most important thing is the quick availability of the credits. Indeed, when launching a recovery program, negative effects such as the rise in the price of products following a devaluation (dinar was devalued by almost 50 percent) come immediately, whereas positive effects come later. This difficult period for the people must be limited. It is a question of credibility.

[Nicaud] Does this rescheduling not come too late?

[Benbitour] It comes at the right time. Over the last six years, foreign debt has represented 75 percent of export earnings. In 1993, it rose to 86 percent and it could have exceeded 90 percent this year if there had been no rescheduling.

As you know, Algeria lives mainly on its exports of hydrocarbons. In 1991, Algerian oil was worth $21 a barrel. This year, we have planned the budget on a $15 basis. Each dollar less per barrel represents a $500 loss in income for the whole year. In six years, Algeria had to cut its imports by half. Because of a lack of supplies, namely, spare parts, the industrial sector is operating only at 50 percent of capacity.

[Nicaud] The Paris Club agreement complements a readjustment program jointly developed with the IMF. What are the next steps?

[Benbitour] We will concentrate our efforts on reducing the budget deficit from 9.2 percent of GDP last year to 3.2 percent in 1994. This objective is possible due to the devaluation of the dinar.

[Nicaud] With 2 million people out of work, unemployment remains the number one problem in Algeria. What impact do you expect your program to have on employment?

[Benbitour] Nearly 250,000 people enter the labor market each year. Up till now, the government has granted money to anyone whose income does not exceed a certain amount. We would now like to give compensation to those who engage in public utility activities. This requires a complete remodeling of the system. Besides the gas industry, we are targeting growth in those sectors employing a large number of workers.

Hopes To Capitalize on Paris Club Deal

LD0406131894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The effective beginning of the period following the accord on rescheduling the public debt seems to be characterized by the government's control of available data and by drawing the main lines of the strategy in order to avoid as much as possible any negative repercussions—all while eliminating any possible difficulty in the postagreement period.

All this transpires before highlighting the positive effect of the agreement, which often emerges in the long run. The statement by Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour falls within this context. Benbitou stressed that the most important thing was the speed with which the loans obtained up to date from the IMF, in accordance with the agreement, will be used. Bachir Hedibel reports:

[Hedibel] During the period following the Paris Club agreement, which is the same period preceded by the transitional agreement with the IMF, the government will work to focus its efforts on reducing the budget deficit, so the latter will reach 3.2 percent next year. This is the content of the statement made by the finance minister.

Benbitour hopes today for a speedy use of the loans granted to Algeria by the IMF or other financial institutions, or in accordance with the agreement with Paris Club. [passage omitted]

Explains Repayment Schedule

LD0806184394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] [Announcer] Following the agreement with the Paris Club on the rescheduling of Algeria's official debts, conditions of the agreement and modalities of the repayment of the debts were the main topics of the news conference held yesterday by Minister of Finance Ahmed Benbitour. More details with Abdelkader Djeridi.

[Djeridi] Minister of Finance Ahmed Benbitour stated at yesterday's news conference that the agreement on rescheduling Algeria's official debts, signed on 31 May 1994, stipulated a gradual repayment as from the fifth year [1999].

The minister of finance pointed out that such a method, known as a shared repayment, was different from the method drawn up by the Houston Club for debtor countries with a low income.

As concerns Algeria, whose $5 billion in debts were rescheduled over 16 years with a four-year grace period, it would be paying from the fifth year 1.39 percent of the original loans. It would be paying 2.17 percent in the sixth year, 3.06 percent in the seventh year, 4.08 percent in the eighth year and so forth. Accordingly, in eight years Algeria would have paid 10.7 percent of the original loan and in 10 years 22.5 percent, he added.

Houston conditions would, according to the minister, have cost the country 28.6 percent more in 10 years.

The minister of finance also pointed out that the agreement with the Paris Club would allow Algeria to go back to the financial markets. He affirmed that the agreement, which was supported by a letter of intent, would open the way for another meeting with the Paris Club next year.

As far as commercial debts were concerned, Mr Ahmed Benbitour pointed out that talks on the technicalities were under way between Algerian banks and foreign banks in order find out whether such debts could be refinanced or rescheduled with the London Club. In either case, however, commercial debts would not exceed the amount of the official debts that were rescheduled recently.

As far as banking system was concerned, the minister said he would support any initiative to set up private banks for the sake of creating competition within the Algerian banking system.

[Announcer] On the other hand, the minister of finance has given more details on the agreement with the Paris Club, and asserted that Algeria had big development potential, had made a great leap forward in the economic reforms, and had the ability to find solutions.

[Djeridi] Mr Benbitour has affirmed that Algeria has, in addition, human, hydrocarbon, agricultural, and huge infrastructural potentials which could be developed further. When these winning cards are well utilized, Algeria can overcome its crisis, he added. However, population growth, which is serious, would create huge social demands and require a production mechanism which would reach 50 percent of its potential.

In this context, Ahmed Benbitour pointed out that Algeria could achieve growth of 3 percent this year and 6 percent in 1995, without having to look for further investment. The potential of the existing installations was sufficient to meet such a target as long as there was a good supply of semifinished raw materials.

In a second stage, production could be increased to more than 70 percent through industrial restructuring, more investment, and fruitful partnership.

At his news conference, Minister of Finance Ahmed Benbitour dwelt on the economic program. It is based on economic growth through developing the gas sector as well as small and medium companies, creating jobs and economic stability, and controlling the money supply and inflation.

European Union To Release Loan Installment

LD0906200194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Following the satisfaction recorded by the European troika, the European Union is to order the release of a $150 million loan to Algeria. The amount is the final installment of an overall loan of $400 million granted to Algeria in 1991. Algeria and four other countries will also benefit from loans from the Islamic Development Bank [IDB]. The IDB is to grant Algeria a $6.5 million loan to be spent on papier mache exports.

Foreign Minister Receives Malaysian Counterpart

BK0906132294 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0856 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, June 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Algeria has requested Malaysia's help to present its proposal for the establishment of ties between the Maghreb Union and ASEAN.

Algeria, this year's chairman of the Maghreb Union, made the request at a meeting between its foreign minister, Mohamed Salah Dembri and his Malaysian counterpart Abdullah Ahmad Badawi during the latter's four-day visit from June 5 to the country.

Senior officials of both countries were also present during the meeting.

A statement issued by the Malaysian Foreign Ministry Thursday [9 June], said Abdullah had promised to present Algeria's proposal at the annual meeting of ASEAN's foreign ministers in Bangkok next month.

He believed that there would be no objection to the proposal since ASEAN had established ties with several regional groupings such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, Rio Group and European Union.

Hopefully a meeting between ASEAN and the Maghreb Union could be held during this year's session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the statement said.

During the visit, Abdullah also called on Algerian President General Lamine Zeroual, and held discussions with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi.

During the bilateral discussions, both foreign ministers also felt that closer ties between Algeria and Malaysia could further strengthen the South-South cooperation particularly within the framework of Group-15.

Both countries also agreed on exchange of experience in economic development, training, technical cooperation, trade, investment, education and culture.

Being Islamic countries emphasising on development for the people, Malaysia and Algeria agree on exchange of ideas between their Islamic intellectuals on Islam and development, the statement said.

On enhancing economic cooperation, Malaysia and Algeria had agreed to look into and sign several agreements including those on economic, scientific and technical cooperation, investment protection and assurance, and waving of visa's requirement.

Zeroual Message Marks Zeralda Summit Anniversary

LD0906190694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Liamine Zeroual, head of state and current president of the Arab Maghreb Union, emphasized his determination to build a harmonious and prosperous Arab Maghreb in accordance with the aspirations of the peoples of the region.

In a message he addressed today on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Zeralda summit, Zeroual said that in the world of today, which is characterized by fast transformations and in which the weight of political and economic groupings is increasing, the Arab Maghreb should face the challenge represented by its union in order to occupy its rightful place in the new order of international relations.

Egypt

MENA Reports Mubarak's CBS Interview

NC1006073994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0636 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Washington, 10 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that the Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and the Jerusalem issue are the most critical problems confronting the Middle East peace process. Regarding the settlements, he said everything depends on how the Israelis and the Palestinians handle this issue, which is more difficult and complicated now than it used to be when the Camp David Accords were signed. As to Jerusalem, the president emphasized its special status among the adherents of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism all of whom attach a sacred character to the city.

These remarks came in an interview conducted by the well-known television commentator Dan Rather and broadcast by CBS Television early today.

In response to a question, President Mubarak said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat wishes to go to Jericho but is delaying the trip until the funds he promised the Palestinians become available because it will be difficult for him to go there "empty-handed."

President Mubarak emphatically denied any prospect of Egypt's becoming "another Iran." He declared: "Egypt cannot turn into an Iran or any other country. It is an ancient country with very deep roots and a 7,000-year old civilization."

He added: "We are able to confront terrorist acts in this country."

Concerning the greatest current threat to the peace operation, President Mubarak said: "The main obstacle is the settlements and how the Palestinians and Israelis handle this issue."

Asked if that is the primary problem, President Mubarak said: "Yes. I remember that there were 48 small settlements when the Camp David Accords were signed. Now there are 180 settlements and this makes the problem much more difficult and complicated than ever before. Also, there is the Jerusalem issue which is a sacred place for Arabs, Muslims, Christians, and Jews."

On whether he doubts Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will go to Jericho this month, his excellency replied: "I recently heard that he is ready to go but is postponing the trip until the aid funds become available. I believe he wishes to go but if he arrives there empty-handed, it will be a very difficult matter for his people to accept."

Asked if Yasir 'Arafat will able to govern after a life of armed struggle, President Mubarak said: "Let's be realistic. 'Arafat is facing tremendous difficulties but he is the best man for this mission now. I know him very well."

In answer to a question about whether Yasir 'Arafat can do what Nelson Mandela did in South Africa, namely forgive, President Mubarak said: "I believe that 'Arafat is willing to forgive. They can unite and cooperate for the good of the people."

On whether he thinks it is time to reduce the economic sanctions on Iraq, although President Saddam Husayn is still in power, President Mubarak remarked: "It is a problem. We sympathize with the suffering Iraqi nation but not with Saddam Husayn himself."

In answer to a question on whether he favors selling Iraqi oil on the international market at this time, his excellency said: "If it is for the people's good and if the revenue from such sales can be controlled and used to bring prosperity to the people, then I agree."

Asked if Iran poses a major threat to regional peace and security, President Mubarak said: "The Iranians are dead set against the peace process."

Regarding the possibility that Egypt might turn into another Iran, President Mubarak said: "Egypt will never be another Iran or any other country. Egypt is a country with a long history and a 7,000-year civilization. We are quite able to confront terrorist acts in this country."

Musa Message to Christopher on Bosnia Conference

NC0906123094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has urged U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to support the nonaligned foreign ministers's call for convening an international conference on Bosnia to be sponsored by the United Nations.

This came in a message from 'Amr Musa to Christopher on this resolution.

Musa clarified that the objectives of this conference are to immediately apply the cease-fire and to put an end to all military activities under the supervision of the peacekeeping forces. In addition, the other objectives are to turn Bosnia-Herzegovina into a safe-haven and guarantee that the regional borders and sovereignty are not harmed.

MENA has learned that Musa sent a similar message to French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, about the extensive efforts Egyptian diplomacy is exerting to support the Bosnian cause.

Millions in Aid Extended to Palestinian Authority

NC0906120594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Egypt has decided to extend material aid worth approximately $20 million to the Palestinian Authority, including food supplies. Part of the assistance will be used to organize training programs for the police.

Announcing this today, Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state in the cabinet for international cooperation affairs, said a number of Arab funds have pledged to extend economic aid to the Palestinian Authority in the coming stages.

Sudan Asks Arab League To Ease Tension in Ties

NC0906105594 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Sudan has asked the Arab League to intervene immediately to ease the current tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Khartoum has urged Arab countries, particularly Libya, Syria, and the PLO, to work toward achieving reconciliation between Cairo and Khartoum. Sudan has also sent a memorandum to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on the Hala'ib triangle.

Brotherhood Leader Queried on Antigovernment Leaflets

NC0906131194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Under the supervision of Attorney General Counselor Muhammad 'Arafah, the North al-Jizah prosecution office has begun investigations with Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, in the case of the seizure of leaflets bearing his name which were distributed by some students during the 'Id al-Adha holiday. The leaflets carried incitements against the government and called for the overthrow of the regime and the changing of the Constitution by force.

Correction to Opposition's Demand for Consultations

NC0806184794

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Opposition Parties Demand More Consultations," published in the 8 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 13: Column two, fourth paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...the rapporteur was unsuccessful, and despite our...(changing word "successful" to "unsuccessful")

Libya

U.S. Told To 'Stop Interfering' in Yemen

NC0906210194 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] The United States has voiced great concern over the fighting in Yemen. A statement issued yesterday by the U.S. State Department speaks of mounting concern over the grave consequences of continued fighting in that country. The State Department's statement indicates that the United States is trying to involve itself in the situation in Yemen and dictate certain policies on that country. Instead of getting alarmed over Yemen, the United States would do well to stop interfering in its affairs and hatching plots against its unity.

Western Countries Accused of Aiding 'Terrorists'

NC0906210294 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] A spokesman for the U.S. State Department has voiced his government's belief that Sudan harbors members of what he described as international terrorist organizations. It is well known that Western countries—foremost among them the United States—are the ones who harbor terrorist organizations, provide them with weapons, and allow them to train on their territory. The United States and other Western countries are the ones who abet the leaders of these terrorist organizations and send them to carry out assassinations, acts of subversion, and destabilization plots in many parts of the world.

Morocco

King Briefs New Cabinet on Virtues of Dialogue

LD0806132294 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, June 08 (MAP)—King Hassan II Tuesday presided at a ministers' council after the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali presented him the members of the new cabinet.

During the council, the sovereign, who underlined Filali's qualities and renewed his trust to the cabinet members, pointed out that the responsibility of each minister is full and not dependent on conjuncture and that all the cabinet members should shoulder this responsibility without any reservation to lead the country towards the sought social peace and prosperity.

King Hassan II stressed the virtues of dialog that all the ministers, together or separately, should kindle with all the partners and all the institutions. The sovereign laid a special emphasis on the good relations that the government should have with the parliament and with the political groups and trade unions represented in the legislative assembly.

King Hassan II also underlined the necessity to carry on work on the major dossiers especially those of privatization and attraction of new investments and urged the cabinet to grant permanent attention to the issues of employment and education. He said the creation of jobs should be at the forefront of the cabinet concerns. As to the educational issue, he said he is to address shortly a message on the matter to the parliament as announced in the throne day speech last March 3rd.

Filali then took the floor to express thanks to King Hassan II for the trust he showed him by appointing him prime minister and renewed his attachment to the royal instructions and commitment to abide by these instructions in his policy. Filali underlined his unshakable confidence in the sovereign's perspicacity and wisdom and in the virtues of dialog.

Israeli Delegation Visits for Economic Talks

TA0906161994 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] An Israeli delegation headed by 'Oded 'Eran, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, is currently in Morocco discussing ways to improve economic relations between the two countries.

Jerusalem believes that despite the fact that King Hassan is still hesitant to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, in his meeting with Foreign Minister Peres last week he agreed to take energetic steps to improve economic relations between the two countries.

The Foreign Ministry delegation left for Morocco to prepare for Israel's participation in the talks of the working group on Middle East economic development in the framework of the bilateral talks. The deliberations of this committee will open in the Moroccan capital of Rabat next Thursday and will last three days. This will be the fifth round of talks for this committee, and it will be attended by 30 delegations, 14 of which will come from Arab countries.

The talks will mainly focus on the development of regional transportation in the Middle East, and cooperation between the countries on issues of tourism and agriculture. An effort will be made for the first time to informally discuss the institutionalization of cooperation.

The Israeli delegation will be headed by Prof. Ya'aqov Frenkel, Bank of Israel governor, and Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry deputy director general. It will also include representatives of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Foreign and Finance Ministries, and the Bank of Israel. The delegation will also be accompanied by a group of Israeli reporters.

EU Commissioner van den Broek on Official Visit

LD0706213594 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpt] This morning, Mr. Badreddine Senoussi, chairman of parliament's foreign affairs and cooperation committee, received Mr. Hans van den Broek, European commissioner for foreign and security policy and enlargement negotiations, who was accompanied by the EU representative in Morocco.

During this meeting, the European commissioner stressed the importance of this visit, which aims to boost the cooperation and partnership between Morocco and the EU. He added that the relationship between Morocco and Europe was long-standing but that additional efforts must be made to boost this relationship. He made reference to exchanges in the field of agricultural products between the EU and Morocco.

Mr. Hans van den Broek, praised the leading role played by Morocco as an element of stability in the Maghreban, Arab, and international arenas, both at the political and economic level.

At a news conference, which he held this afternoon in Rabat, he said that he was happy to have been received by His Majesty King Hassan II and described the talks he held with Moroccan officials as serious and fruitful. He emphasized the utmost importance that the EU accords to establishing a genuine partnership with Morocco proceeding from its conviction that European stability is linked to the stability of the Arab Maghreb region.

He said that coincident with his visit to Morocco, the time had come for the European bloc to adopt a realistic policy that fulfils the aspirations of the Moroccan and European sides, with the intention of opening up broad horizons for bolstering economic cooperation at all levels.

Mr. van den Broek announced in this regard that at the end of the current month, the European parliament would undertake a study of the situation in the Arab Maghreb region. [passage omitted]

Arms-Smuggling Trial Continues

LD0806112294 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Rabat, 8 Jun—The military court in Rabat, which since last Monday has been hearing the case of eight people (six Moroccans and two Algerians) accused of "breaking the laws related to arms, ammunition and collaboration," will begin to debate the core of this case after [word indistinct] on Wednesday beginning at 1600. [passage omitted]

This case is related in particular to the possession of automatic weapons and ammunition from military equipment that was transported through Germany, Belgium, and France and handed over in Spain to Hassan Agheiri, the main defendant, who brought it into Morocco in a car registered in France.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Attends OAU Ministerial Council

Talks About Differences With Cairo

NC0906160194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 9 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih has affirmed the depth of Egyptian-Sudanese relations and the importance of maintaining these relations at the proper level to benefit the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

In an exclusive interview with MENA in Tunis, where he is attending the meetings of the OAU Ministerial Council, Abu-Salih said that at times this relationship becomes strained or tense. This is the case now, when it has reached a "saddening" level, but we must do everything possible to maintain this relationship at an appropriate level.

The Sudanese minister stressed that the issues under dispute between the two countries, including Hala'ib, are quite simple; finding a solution to this issue will be much simpler than anyone expects.

Abu-Salih criticized the media in the two countries, saying that the media should be positive instead of indulging in vituperations that do not serve the two countries' interest.

He said that the current tension between Egypt and Sudan was caused by the two countries' foreign ministers failure to hold a meeting as scheduled. He underlined the need to hold this meeting in Khartoum "to demonstrate the Sudanese Government's stand to the Sudanese public."

He expressed full confidence that he and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will work together to resolve all the disputes between the two countries. He stressed the need for confidence between the two countries and for this not to be hampered by "some simple events, such as when Khartoum Province took over some houses that belong to Egyptians there." He said that the image of the Sudanese Government must be changed.

Speaking about the Hala'ib problem, Abu-Salih said: We do not want to complicate this problem, because the relationship between Egypt and Sudan is too great to allow this issue to move from a "bilateral framework into international forums."

Urges Restoring 'Trust' With Egypt

PM0906143494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 5

[Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih has stressed that no transient problems or differences can harm crucial relations between Sudan and Egypt.

Abu-Salih, who is heading his country's delegation to the OAU Foreign Ministers Council meetings in Tunis, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, "no matter how we describe the phase Sudanese-Egyptian relations are experiencing, we in Sudan believe that we must overcome minor things and move toward the major and sublime aim of restoring relations between the two countries to their normal course in the interests of the two peoples who have existed in the Nile Valley for thousands of years."

Dr. Abu-Salih attributed the strain in relations between Sudan and Egypt to "the lack of mutual trust between the Sudanese and Egyptian sides. Thus we must work sincere'y to restore trust between the two sides."

The Sudanese foreign minister stressed that "a serious bilateral dialogue is the only way to build strong and sound relations between Egypt and Sudan."

He said optimistically and confidently that, "whatever the problems, we are confident that we will work to restore our relations to their normal status in which the Sudanese and Egyptian people see their common destiny."

Asked about his country's support for extremist movements, the main cause of the strain in relations between Sudan and the countries suffering as a result of this phenomenon, Abu-Salih said, "We are against religious, and even nonreligious, extremism. We advocate moderation and believe that many of the accusations leveled at Sudan in this connection are absolutely baseless."

He added that his country "is seeking to lay the foundations for serious action among all the Arab states in order to move toward solidarity and to secure all the factors that serve the security and stability of all the peoples of the Arab and African regions." [passage omitted]

Government Forces Open Southern Land Route

EA0906203994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Mobile forces have safely finished opening the land route linking Renk with Malakal, which had been closed for more than 10 years. In a press statement, a coordinator with the people's defense in the Upper Nile State, 'Abd-al-Halim Adam, stressed that the scattered remnants of the rebellion's army in the region have suffered a collapse of morale, and a great number of them have expressed their wish to surrender.

He said that government soldiers, the people's defense, people's police, and the national service, with the support of the citizens, participated in the opening up of the road.

Meanwhile, the command of the people's defense has called on all combatants to enlist in the Misk al-Khitam Brigade, which is currently heading toward the operational zone. The deadline for enlisting is 13 June, at Mawlid Square in Khartoum.

This comes as a support for national unity, development plans, and the defense of peace in the country.

Government Cooperation With Iran in Judicial Field

EA0906210294 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 8 June (SUNA)—Al-Sayyid Jalal Ali Lutfi, the chief justice, and those accompanying his excellency, returned to the country yesterday after visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran, where he held discussions with senior Iranian officials on joint cooperation in different judicial fields.

'Abd-al-Rahman Sharafi, a member from the delegation, told SUNA that the visit achieved its goal. He said that the chief justices of the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation and coordination in the judiciary field and in international and regional forums, in addition to agreeing on other bilateral relations. He said that the Iranian Republic will provide the Sudanese judiciary with modern equipment

and sufficient reference materials on Islamic jurisprudence. He added that an agreement was concluded on exchanging scholarships and training courses, in addition to (?providing) the Sudanese judiciary with [word indistinct] agricultural equipment and medicine necessary for the judiciary's service projects.

New Opposition Radio Causes 'Measures' Against Egypt

NC0806191094 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] Observers have not been able to find a reason for the escalation of the Sudanese measures against Egypt at this particular time. According to exclusive information available to AL-'ARABI, the reason is this: The Sudanese opposition radio station has begun its transmission and is now heard in Khartoum. The Sudanese Government holds Cairo responsible.

However, according to information, the opposition radio is being hired from an overseas country for $500 per hour, is transmitting to Sudan through satellite, and Cairo has absolutely nothing to do with it. In fact, Egypt had rejected numerous requests from the Sudanese opposition to allow the radio to transmit from Cairo, and this has worsened the relations between the two sides for several months.

The radio was launched by the personal efforts of some academic and military elements independent of the Sudanese opposition group. Those elements tried to activate the opposition in light of the poor performance of the National Sudanese Grouping as a result of disagreements between the Ummah Party and the Sudanese Communist Party over the grouping's internal structure. The disagreements also led to differences between the two main parties, the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], and this necessitated the presence of DUP Chairman Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani in Cairo to try to contain the crisis.

The danger of the opposition radio, which began two hours of transmission daily, is that it ends the isolation of the Sudanese citizen and obstructs the regime's media hegemony. This is a threat to the regime itself, especially given the worsening domestic problems. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Voter Identification for Referendum Postponed

LD0906030894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] The United Nations has announced the postponement of the voter identification operation with regard to the self-determination referendum in Western Sahara. Our correspondent has more details:

[Unidentified correspondent] Voter identification for those who are to take part in the self-determination referendum in Western Sahara, which was supposed to begin today in Laayoune, has been postponed until next week for logistical reasons. The United Nations announced the news from Rabat today, confirming that the transportation of Moroccan and Saharan notables to registration locations raised some technical problems.

According to a UN-Moroccan joint statement signed at the end of May in Rabat by the Moroccan interior minister and Erik Jenssen, acting special envoy of the UN secretary general, all Saharans concerned with the referendum had been informed that voter identification would begin today in Laayoune.

Yemen

Paper Says 'Legitimate Forces' 'Inside' Aden

JN0906153694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1133 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 9 Jun (INA)—Yemeni press sources have reported that the legitimate Yemeni forces have recently been able to impose their full control over the military positions of the forces of rebellion and secession in the city of Aden.

Military reports published today by the newspaper ITHNAN WA 'ISHRUN MAYU, issued by the Yemeni General People's Congress [GPC], said that the Yemeni Armed Forces are currently stationed in the areas of al-Mansurah, al-Haswah, al-Mina', Madinat al-Sha'b, and al-Burayqah areas inside the city of Aden after they imposed their full control on the Salah al-Din garrison, and the al-Jala' and Saba' brigades in the city.

The military reports said that the Yemeni forces were able to tighten their control on all the military positions established by the rebels inside the city, and to clear these areas of military resistance.

The paper said that the legitimate forces have imposed their full control on the Aden Airport in the Khormaskar area, which is being besieged by the legitimate forces.

The paper added that a number of military commanders, who were misled by the secessionists, were captured by the legitimate forces, including the commander of the secessionists' 3d Armored Brigade, who is called al-Baqri and who had earlier fled 'Imran area, north of Sanaa, at the beginning of the war.

The reports said that several secessionist military personnel fled into the quarters of the city of Aden and began to use civilians as human shields to protect themselves.

In another development, military reports revealed that the legitimate forces are in control of important areas and directorates in the Hadhramaut Governorate, east Yemen. These reports added that the legitimate forces imposed their control on the areas of Yafi', east of the city of al-Mukalla, the stronghold of 'Ali Salim al-Bid. These forces have also captured the areas of al-'Abr, Bi'r 'Ali, and Brum, approximately 30 km west of al-Mukalla.

The legitimate forces also advanced into vast areas in the Hadhramaut Governorate, which the secessionists have planted with mine fields in an attempt to obstruct the legitimate forces' advance toward the city of al-Mukalla, which is now besieged from all directions by the legitimate forces.

The military sources said that the legitimate Yemeni forces are now in control of the Hadhramaut Governorate, with the exception of three positions taken by the secessionists as strongholds. These areas are al-Mukalla, Sihut, and al-Riyan Airport.

Interior Ministry Reduces Curfew Hours

JN0906180694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] In view of the prevalence of security and stability throughout the governorates of the republic, and in light of the brother citizens' great and positive cooperation with the curfew instructions, the Ministry of Interior announces to all brother citizens throughout the governorates of the republic that it has been decided to reduce the curfew hours. As of today, Thursday, curfew hours will be from 2200-0500. Thus, all businesses and activities in all cities can proceed in accordance with this new schedule, which must be complied with.

The ministry wishes to explain that any party, institution, or individual whose jobs necessitate moving from one place to another during the curfew hours must obtain a special license from the Ministry of Interior. Motorists should always carry with them the documents that prove their ownership of the vehicles that they drive.

The ministry takes this opportunity to express thanks and appreciation to all citizens for cooperating with the security agencies.

Southern Military Source Says Air Raid Killed 5

EA0906165394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Excerpt] A responsible source at the Democratic Republic of Yemen Defense Ministry has issued the following statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden: Four fighter aircraft belonging to the military ruling regime in Sanaa at 1200 raided a number of vital economic installations and residential quarters in Aden Governorate, destroying a number of houses belonging to innocent citizens. Five citizens were martyred, including three children. Our air defenses fought back, shooting down one of the aircraft, which citizens witnessed falling into the Gulf of Aden. [passage omitted]

Aden Reports Northern Forces Resuming Attacks

EA0906170294 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Excerpt] A responsible source at the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] Defense Ministry has issued the following statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden: The forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa at dawn today resumed their iniquitous, aggressive operations against our people in the DRY on all fronts, continuing their random shelling of populated residential areas and vital economic installations, in implementation of orders issued by war general 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who yesterday ordered his forces to continue their destruction, regardless of the cost. [passage omitted]

North's Artillery Targets Abyan-Lahij Axis

EA0906190594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Honored listeners, an official spokesman at the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] Defense Ministry has issued the following statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden: At a time when the sons of our Yemeni people, brothers, and friends were looking forward to the declaration of the cease-fire, with effect from 1800 this evening, 9 June, in implementation of UN security resolution No. 924, and in response to the sincere efforts of Mr. al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, the UN secretary general's envoy to Yemen, our forces deployed on the Abyan and Lahij axes were subjected to a comprehensive surprise attack and concentrated artillery barrage, which was launched by the forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa. This attack is still in progress. The Armed Forces of the DRY, which are absolutely and totally observing the cease-fire resolution in effect from 1800 this evening, so as to prevent the shedding of Yemeni blood in respect and appreciation for the good and sincere efforts of the UN envoy, affirm to the masses of our people in the DRY their complete ability to repel the cowardly aggressors, and to force them into respecting the international authority and its resolutions. The Defense Ministry wishes at the same time to praise the good efforts resulting from the high degree of responsibility on the part of the UN envoy, and to appeal to the UN Security Council to take stern measures against this raging aggressor, who not only sheds the blood of our Yemeni people, but defies the will of the whole international community.

Northern Artillery Shells Aden Areas

NC1006071294 Paris AFP in English 0653 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, June 10 (AFP)—Northern heavy artillery gunners shelled the southern stronghold of Aden on Friday, a day after the collapse of the latest ceasefire in Yemen's civil war.

Shells crashed into the Khormaksar district, near the airport used by southern warplanes, an AFP correspondent said. Ambulances rushed to the scene, but there was no immediate casualty toll available.

The bombardment cut off electricity supplies to several districts of the capital of the south's breakaway state. [passage omitted]

2 Reported Killed, 15 Wounded

NC1006075094 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, June 10 (AFP)—Northern heavy artillery gunners shelled the southern stronghold of Aden on Friday, a day after the collapse of the latest ceasefire in Yemen's civil war.

Shells crashed into the Khormaksar district, near the airport used by southern warplanes, an AFP correspondent said.

Al-Jumhuriyah hospital said at least two civilians were killed and 15 wounded in shelling of Aden and nearby villages since Thursday night. [passage omitted]

Salih Orders Relief Convoy to Aden Governorate

JN1006052394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council member, has instructed Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the acting prime minister, to quickly move a convoy carrying food supplies and medicines to Aden Governorate to be distributed free of charge to citizens in the governorate in order to meet the urgent needs of citizens in all parts of the governorate.

The instructions come on the heels of the orders by the brother Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces to our Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy, to abide by the cease-fire resolution and halt the military confrontation against the secessionist rebels in compliance with the UN Security Council resolution on the situation in our country and to give a fresh chance to the secessionist rebels to rejoin the ranks of unity and legitimacy.

Salih Sees No Future Without Unity

JN1006062794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, along with Shaykh 'Abd-al- Majid al-Zandani, member of the Presidential Council, met yesterday evening with several representative dignitaries, notables, and social figures from the Yafi' District in the Lahij Governorate. [passage omitted]

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council spoke at the meeting, expressing his thanks and gratitude for the high national unionist spirit demonstrated by the sons of Yafi' District, the heroic strugglers who have shown true belonging to the homeland and faith in unity. He noted that the secessionist rebels, led by the traitor and agent al-Bid, have imposed challenges on unity by their plots and pursuit of their destructive selfish interests.

He said the broad national support for the Armed Forces, which are defending unity and legitimacy, demonstrated by the sons of the Yemeni people all over the Yemeni homeland, is a sincere expression of the meaning of unity for our people. Unity means pride, dignity, existence, and the fate for all Yemenis. It is not possible to imagine the present and future of Yemen without unity. The masses of our people have zealously and eagerly stood up for unity to bolster it, baptizing it

with the pure blood and the precious sacrifices of the sons of our people and their Armed Forces in order to preserve and maintain unity.

He added that unity deserves all sacrifices. Our people are willing to make more sacrifices and they will defend their unity, even if they have to use stones if weapons are not available. They will uphold the slogan of unity or death.

The brother president praised the stands of the sons of the Yafi' District, who have valiantly confronted the gang of secession and rebellion and defeated it in more than one location. The sons of Yafi' have proven to be strong strugglers who are loyal to principles and to the homeland's causes and unity.

He said our people are today formulating a new history in their life and effort to make a prosperous, stable future which cannot be imagined without unity. He pointed out that our struggling Yemeni people, who have been hardened by experience, have championed their will all along and are today capable of defeating this new challenge imposed by the criminal secessionist gang on unity. The Yemeni people will emerge victorious, God willing, because the will of the people derives from the will of God. He said all efforts will be mobilized in the next stage to repair and reconstruct what has been destroyed by the war imposed by the secessionists on the homeland and to build a new Yemen based on unity, democracy, comprehensive development, broad popular participation, building modern institutions, establishing law and order, respecting human rights and social justice.

The meeting was attended by brother Yahya al-Ra'i, member of the House of Representatives.

Salih, UN's Brahimi Make Statements Following Meeting

JN0906181294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received brother Lakhdar Brahimi, personal envoy of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues related to Lakhdar Brahimi's fact-finding mission in our country. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Presidential Council Chairman Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that his meeting with brother Lakhdar Brahimi was useful regarding the mission he is entrusted with as an envoy of the UN secretary general. He noted that the Republic of Yemen has previously announced its compliance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 924, and its readiness to deal with all its clauses. He added that it is fully ready to implement this resolution. He said: A cease-fire was immediately announced for the past two days. Very regrettably, the rebels and violators of the constitutional legitimacy are the ones who reject this resolution.

The Presidential Council chairman reiterated the Republic of Yemen's compliance with the UN Security Council resolution, saying: We will cooperate to implement it in letter and spirit in order to avoid any repercussions that might occur in Yemen and the region.

Answering a question by television Channel One on the results of his meeting with the Presidential Council chairman, brother Lakhdar Brahimi said: I very thankful to and appreciate his excellency the president, who gave me this time despite the fact that he is very busy and has huge responsibilities. I can say that our talks were very good. We spoke about the current situation in this country, which is dear to all of us. The brother president has reassured us that the decisions that will be made in the future will please all the Yemenis and the international community.

Answering another question on the Yemeni Government's understanding of UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 on the situation in the Republic of Yemen, Lakhdar Brahimi said: The Yemeni Government has expressed its stand toward this resolution, and explained this stand. What concerns me in this resolution is the mission I am carrying out.

He added: I reiterate that I am proud because the brothers in the Republic of Yemen have accepted me to carry out this mission. In fact, the talks that were held with the brother president today prove that there is confidence and full readiness to carry out this mission. As for the Republic of Yemen's stand toward this resolution, it was expressed through official stands inside and outside this country, and the United Nations was informed of this.

Replying to a question on the measures he is planning to take, brother Lakhdar Brahimi said: We are continuing our contacts with the brothers in the Republic of Yemen. These meetings will continue to complete the information so that we can present the report that is required from us.

UN Envoy Interviewed on Talks

JN0906192694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Our special correspondent in Yemen, Ahmad Birru, has reported on the atmosphere prevailing in Sanaa in the wake of UN Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi's talks and the cease-fire decision. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Birru met with Brahimi and asked him about the results of his contacts with the Sanaa officials yesterday and today and the talks he will be holding with the southern officials. He also asked him to give an evaluation of the seriousness of the new cease-fire decision. Brahimi said:

[Begin Brahimi recording] I had the honor to hold a long meeting with his excellency the president of the republic at noon today. I will be meeting a number of party

leaders. Tomorrow I will meet with members of parliament. I will then leave Sanaa to continue my contacts elsewhere.

Perhaps at 1500 [1200 GMT] you heard a news item from Sanaa radio to the effect that the Government of the Republic of Yemen has decided to implement a cease-fire as of 1800 [1500 GMT] today. We greatly hope that this time the cease-fire will hold. Moreover, the brothers in the Yemeni Republic affirm that they are prepared to enter into a dialogue with the other side but on principles which they believe are essentials for such a dialogue. I believe that this is an encouraging beginning. We hope that little by little, this country will be extricated from its current affliction. [end recording]

Our correspondent was careful to explore all aspects of Brahimi's mission in Sanaa and directed the following questions at him:

[Begin recording] [Birru] The Yemeni Government is prepared to hold a dialogue with the other side. Does this mean that the exception to the leaders of the secession has been waived?

[Brahimi] They say that they have certain principles. It is not for me to list these principles because if we forget one of them, we will have problems. You may ask the Yemeni brothers and they will tell you what they are. Whether or not these principles will be acceptable to the other side, we do not know. However, I consider it to be a good step when I am told that they are prepared for dialogue but with certain conditions. Well, I say you are welcome, let us see these conditions and consult with the other side.

[Birru] Will you meet with the leaders of the other side in Aden, al-Mukalla, or in an Arab country?

[Brahimi] The important thing is to meet with the brothers and talk to them. The venue is immaterial. This means we will make the necessary arrangements for this to take place.

[Birru] The answers you received in Sanaa were positive and encouraging?

[Brahimi] Undoubtedly.

[Birru] Will you return to Sanaa shortly?

[Brahimi] I think I will return to Sanaa but I do not know when.

[Birru] Thank you. [end recording]

Brahimi did not reveal the place for which he will be leaving tomorrow to meet with the southern leaders. However, sources close to him said that he will be leaving for the Jordanian capital, Amman, where he will meet with southern Yemeni leaders, among whom is believed to be 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

UN's Brahimi Meets Party Leaders, Urges Dialogue

JN1006074094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's special envoy, yesterday met with leaders of political parties and organizations in the Republic of Yemen.

At the outset of the meeting, Brother Dr. Qasim Sallam, secretary of the Yemen Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, acting on his own behalf and on behalf of Yemeni party leaders, welcomed Brother Lakhdar Brahimi as a representative of international legitimacy, which our country and government welcome. He said: Undoubtedly, events in our country are of interest to the entire world because the Yemeni people now find themselves in a difficult situation brought about by a small group that rebelled against constitutional legitimacy and the Yemeni people's will, as well as the will of history.

On his part, Brother Lakhdar Brahimi said he hopes the Republic of Yemen will be able to overcome the current state. He noted the importance of dialogue to establish peace.

The brother party leaders spoke during the meeting, stressing that Yemeni unity is the Yemeni people's fate and future. They will not relinquish it because it was a great achievement of our people on 22 May 1990, following a long struggle by the Yemeni people through the various stages of the Yemeni national movement. They kept that dream, which lived in the mind of the people for scores of years, until they achieved it by the establishment of the Yemeni Republic on 22 May 1990, the Yemeni people's plebiscite on the Constitution, and the general elections on 27 April 1993 within the context of political and party pluralism.

The party leaders noted that what is going on in Yemen is not a war between the north and south as portrayed by hostile media, but, rather, a war between the Yemeni people and the secessionist clique in the Socialist Party that rebelled against legitimacy and the constitutional institutions, fabricated the political crisis, and imposed a war on the people.

The brother party leaders then engaged in a lengthy discussion on the situations in our country and their dimensions.

Brahimi Meets U.S., French Ambassadors

JN1006080494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's special envoy, yesterday received Arthur Hughes and French Ambassador (Martin Lozel) at his place of residence in the Guest Palace in Sanaa.

Brother Najib (?Krizi), the UN spokesman in Yemen, said the meeting came at the request of the two ambassadors within the framework of Brother Lakhdar Brahimi's visit to Yemen to investigate facts in our country for the UN secretary general.

UN Committees To Begin Assessing Damage, Extending Aid

JN0906165394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] A meeting was held at the Ministry of Planning and Development today with a number of the ambassadors to our country from fraternal and friendly states, as well as officials from certain international organizations.

Mutahhar 'Abdallah al-Sa'idi, deputy minister of planning and development, spoke at the meeting about the emergency needs faced by the country in the fields of health, water, sewage, electricity, and education that have resulted from the military operations carried out by the secessionist clique in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership. He said many of these facilities were damaged during these military operations.

He also spoke about the pressing need to extend urgent aid, food and shelters to the citizens who were harmed during that period.

'Awni al-'Ani, representative of the UN program in Sanaa, spoke during the meeting. He stressed the urgent need for this aid, hoping that these states will cooperate, either directly, or within the framework of the United Nations, to extend the necessary aid. He noted that committees to assess damages will begin their work as soon as possible to determine the actual needs.

The under secretary of the Public Health Ministry attended the meeting.

GPC Aide Says Recording of Salih Phone Conversation Faked

PM0906134994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report on telephone interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress, in Paris, by unidentified correspondent in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress, has cast doubt on the truth of the voice recording of the telephone conversation which Aden intercepted and attributed to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, which included orders to continue the fighting despite the cease-fire announcement. He said that "modern recorders can forge anyone's voice. And the phrases I read in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT contain terms the president does not usually use. Anyone's voice can be imitated."

He was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from his residence in Paris. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Ghani said: "We want a dialogue with the brothers in the Socialist Party, except those against whom a decision was issued by the prosecutor general. We do not believe that the Socialist Party is working against unity. It is the elements which exploded the situation militarily and squandered the Yemen Arab Republic's capabilities." [passage omitted]

He pointed out that the "secessionists exploited the cease-fire announced on the eve of 'Id al-Adha to safeguard the people's lives and capabilities. So they continued their rebellion and announced the secession. Then the Security Council adopted a resolution, which we accepted for the sake of public welfare and to prevent matters from escalating and worsening, even though we opposed it on the grounds that the crisis is an internal affair. But they still announced the formation of a government."

He stressed that Sanaa's acceptance of the Security Council "proceeds from its emphasis on unity and the sovereignty of the Republic of Yemen over all its territory." Then he said: "We had wanted from the outset to implement the Security Council resolution, but the others' arbitrariness prevented us. And when we set a date for the cease-fire, they sent their aircraft and naval units to shell the targets of legitimacy, as attested by reporters who were present in the sites."

He criticized the statement issued in Abha [Saudi Arabia] by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ministerial council. He said, "I do not believe that the position taken by the GCC after we did our utmost to improve relations with them is in the interests of any state. Is the aim is to settle scores, it is erroneous."

Foreign Minister Briefs House on Developments

JN0906144794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] During its session today under Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House of Representatives listened to a report by Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah on the political and diplomatic position on the current developments in our country. The foreign minister explained that many sisterly and friendly states, including the UN Security Council permanent member states, support Yemeni unity and democracy. He indicated that many of these states stress that they cannot deal with a secessionist government, that they are not ready to deal with anything outside the framework of Yemeni unity, and that what is going on in the Yemeni arena is an internal affair that concerns the Yemeni people.

Addressing deputies, Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah added: We have in hand very strong cards, represented by the fact that Yemeni unity has crowned the Yemeni people's longstanding struggle and

was achieved peacefully and democratically. Afterward, the Republic of Yemen's Constitution was put to popular vote, winning full popular support throughout the Republic of Yemen. Afterward, general elections were held. Those elections, which are the source of constitutional legitimacy, have shown which party enjoys more popular support.

The foreign minister asked the people's deputies to help Yemeni diplomacy in all that serves Yemeni interests and supports unity.

The deputies expressed extreme appreciation for the Foreign Ministry's ability to deal with political issues and anything that will support Yemeni unity.

Meanwhile, the House stressed that the secessionist elements' move of forming a secessionist government is null and void, deeming it a flagrant insistence by the secessionist clique on violating UN Security Council Resolution 924 and a glaring breach of the UN Security Council cease-fire resolution, which demanded a peaceful settlement within the framework of the Republic of Yemen.

Earlier, the House listened to and approved the minutes of its previous session. The House will continue its work on Sunday to discuss a number of issues and topics on the agenda, including some financial and supply issues, and other issues that will be raised for discussion. The parliamentary committee following up the developments experienced by our country will complete within three days the tasks that the House has entrusted to it. It will submit a report to the House during the next session, which will be held Sunday morning, God willing.

Al-Bid: Referendum Acceptable Under UN Supervision

PM0906105094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview via correspondence with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, "president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen and secretary general of the Socialist Party," in Aden, by Amir Taheri in London; date not given]

[Text] [Taheri] After the war has entered its fourth week, do you believe that resorting to the use of arms was unavoidable?

[Al-Bid] According to Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who prepared for this war, that is true. As for us, we refused to think about or prepare for war. We exerted every effort to spare the Yemeni people war, the most recent example being the Pledge and Accord Document, which the other side rejected completely. Then it pushed Yemen into this war, which has destroyed everything: most recently oil, economic, and service installations, especially in the capital, Aden, despite the Security Council resolution. We are defending, not attacking. We are defending our right to live, our honor, our rights, our homes, and our land against the barbarous military invasion and occupation.

[Taheri] Do you see the current conflict as a civil or international war?

[Al-Bid] Both cases apply to the current situation in Yemen. On the one hand we set up a unified state peacefully, and this state needed efforts to complete its structures. It needed to be looked after and safeguarded. But the "Shaykh and the general" did not comprehend that and remained prisoners of the mentality of annexation, looking at the south as a branch that had joined the roots and as a field for tax collection, usurpation, and obtaining a livelihood.

On the other hand, being two completely equal parties, regimes, countries, and so on, we are entitled to present our case as an international case, as the party represented in the Yemen Arab Republic is waging a war. Because the building of the new entity still has not been completed, and the reality has made it difficult to achieve that, and Sanaa has rejected all that Aden is offering or has offered. In fact the situation has reached the point of declaring a war to eliminate an entire people. So it is a dual matter, as you can see.

[Taheri] Are you willing to accept a temporary return to the situation that existed before the fighting broke out as a condition for a cease-fire, provided it is followed by negotiations between the two parties?

[Al-Bid] Gen. 'Ali Salih unilaterally declared a state of emergency, abolished enforcement of the Constitution, and waged a war. What is required is to halt the fighting and create normal conditions first and then hold negotiations between the two parties that have equal rights and duties.

[Taheri] You demanded Arab and international intervention to end the war. What is the nature of the intervention you are thinking of? Is it supposed to involve peacekeeping forces?

[Al-Bid] We support any Arab and international efforts to end and halt the war at this point, whether through negotiations, by sending observers to withdraw the forces, or, if necessary, by sending peacekeeping forces. Because the continuation of the war would lead to its escalation and to the intervention of parties that do not want stability for the region.

[Taheri] How would you assess the course of the war so far?

[Al-Bid] The course of the war is clear. As far as he ['Ali Salih] is concerned, the aim has been defined since he launched the war, namely to destroy our military and civilian institutions, to occupy the south, and to impose a military regime on the two parts of Yemen, especially after the collapse of the regime's military "myth" about

the existence of a "democratic" atmosphere after the achievement of unity and scope for the press and free expression.

As for our aim, it has always been to defend ourselves peacefully under artillery bombardment. We take up the arms available to repel the aggressor.

[Taheri] Among the proposals mentioned in Western diplomatic sources there is one calling for a cease-fire first and a general referendum in Yemen on unity within about a year. Do you believe that such a formula could form a part of the endeavors being made to end the fighting?

[Al-Bid] The unity was achieved with a political decision, and it was also ended by them with the decision to wage a war on us. It is an all-out war in which they have used every dreadful and barbarous thing, most recently the fatwa announced the day before yesterday on Sanaa radio and issued by someone claiming to be a Muslim. He stated that it is lawful to seize southern areas. And indeed their forces are doing that and plundering everything, raping women and embarking on actions that conflict with Islam, ethics, and manhood.

It is happening not only in the areas they have occupied, but also in northern areas, specifically al-Bayda', Ta'izz, Ibb, and Ma'rib.

It is unrealistic to talk about a referendum while military rule and the military option exist. However, we are willing to accept it [a referendum] in the southern areas when normal conditions are secured under UN supervision. I confirm to you our agreement beforehand to what the people in these areas want.

Aden's al-'Attas Says Arab States Aiding North

JN1006100694 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 8 Jun 94 p 25

[Interview with Engineer Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, "prime minister and finance minister in southern Yemen" by correspondents Falih al-Saghir and Sa'ud al-Rayyis; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-YAWM] How do you explain the Arab evasion concerning the recognition of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY]?

[Al-'Attas] This is due to the ambiguities of the current situation. But now that the issue has been discussed by the UN Security Council, I believe the time is very appropriate for Arab and friendly countries to explicitly specify their stand in order to avert further destruction of our people, which the northern leadership carries out. [passage omitted]

[AL-YAWM] Do you believe recognition of the DRY will increase the chances of halting the war?

[Al-'Attas] Recognition will keep Sanaa from continuing what it insists on carrying out.

[AL-YAWM] What is the actual number of dead and homeless?

[Al-'Attas] There are no accurate figures about how many have been killed. But we estimate the number of dead at 60,000 and those made homeless at hundreds of thousands.

[AL-YAWM] What do you have to say to Sanaa's statement that the southern forces were the ones to hit the Aden refinery?

[Al-'Attas] Two northern Air Force squadrons, each comprising four planes, raided the refinery. These are lies. It is very shameful for them to resort to such lies. [passage omitted]

[AL-YAWM] What about the shortage of medical and food supplies? Is there any assistance in this respect?

[Al-'Attas] The war in Yemen has resulted in an acute shortage of medical and food supplies. We do not have the medical supplies needed to treat those wounded in the war that was ignited by the Sanaa leadership against our people in the south.

There is also a shortage of food supplies as a result of the war that obstructs their shipment to southern Yemen. We appeal to our Arab brothers and our friends to send us medical supplies and food.

[AL-YAWM] Will you ask Sanaa for war reparations?

[Al-'Attas] Certainly. Although the war has harmed all the Yemeni people, the Sanaa leadership launched it. [passage omitted]

[AL-YAWM] Are there foreign elements other than the Iraqis within the northern forces?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, there are Sudanese elements, beside the Iraqis. Iraq assists the northern forces. Jordan also provides spare parts for aircraft and other equipment. We have information that they received new aircraft and spare parts for the Phantoms they have from Jordan. They also received other forms of technical assistance and pilots. We know the pilots that carry out the raids are not Yemenis but are Iraqis and from other nationalities.

Al-'Attas Visits Injured in UAE Hospitals

EA0906201094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Haydar Abu-bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, today visited al-Jazirah Hospital and al-Mafraq Hospital in the UAE, during which he inspected the injured of the Armed Forces and the injured citizens as the result of the brutal war launched by the Sanaa regime on our country. The prime minister praised the stance of the UAE and its assistance in alleviating the sufferings of the democratic Yemeni people. He thanked the hospital management and staff for their efforts to provide human services to the injured.

Aden To 'Strictly' Observe UN Cease-Fire Resolution

EA0906192094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] The Presidential Council in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] has welcomed the statement of the chairman of the Security Council and the U.S. State Department, and the declaration of al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, the UN envoy, concerning the full and unconditional commitment to the cease-fire. It declared that it will strictly abide by it, and expressed hope that the aggressor will cease fire, and stop reinforcement of its forces. It added that experiences had proved to the world that we have truly complied with the Security Council Resolution No. 924 immediately—it was issued on 1st June 1994, and that the Sanaa regime indicated its compliance only on the mass media, while it ordered its forces to continue its aggression. This is proved by the voice of the head of the Sanaa regime. [sentence as received] Therefore, we repeated the necessity of the immediate arrival of international observers to control the cease-fire and disclose any violations. The Presidential Council said that the Security Council Resolution No. 924 and the statement of its chairman and the U.S. State Department did not put any conditions for the implementation of this resolution, while the Sanaa regime is putting preconditions which are unacceptable to all. We also declare our preparedness to facilitate the mission of the al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, and cooperate with him in the capital, Aden, while the Sanaa regime is delaying him in Sanaa and reinforcing its front positions, and moving its hardware in order to continue its aggression.

As we declare our commitment to the security council resolution, the Sanaa regime continues to launch air raids on the vital establishments, including Aden airport, in order to hinder its traffic and prevent the arrival of the UN envoy in Aden. It also shells at random the civil quarters in Aden and the vital establishments.

South's 'Foreign Minister' 'Satisfied' With GCC, U.S. Line

PM0906142494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq: "Al-Asnaj: Aden Battle Will Not Be the Last"]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi—'Abdallah al-Asnaj, foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], has said that the Aden battle will not be the last battle between the north and the south. And that the sons "of south Yemen, who fought British imperialism for many years, will fight the new imperialism wrapped in the cloak of unity."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT prior to his departure for Kuwait after a brief visit to the [United Arab] Emirates accompanied by Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the DRY, al-Asnaj said that the south is not just Aden and the battlefield with the Sanaa forces extends to all the territory of the DRY. Asked whether he expects open Gulf recognition of the DRY, al-Asnaj said: "The issue at present is the consolidation of the cease-fire, which Sanaa tries to get around every time."

He said that what Sanaa says publicly conflicts with what it is doing on the ground, as it is continuing the aggression, hitting residential areas.

He added that the DRY has appealed to the UN secretary general to compel the Sanaa rulers to respect Security Council Resolution 924 and to observe the cease-fire by deed, not word.

He pointed out that DRY services have intercepted telephone conversations in the voice of the Sanaa ruler, in which he urges his forces to speed up their military operations and destroy villages and residential areas.

Asked whether al-'Attas will request Gulf and Arab recognition of the DRY during his current tour, al-Asnaj said: "The recognition issue depends on our steadfastness on the ground." He pointed out that fraternal and friendly states "are awaiting [the outcome of] current developments in Yemen to announce that."

He said that the international community sympathizes with the right to self-determination for south Yemen. It also condemns the aggressive operations launched by the Sanaa government.

Al-Asnaj praised the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] resolution issued at the GCC foreign ministers meeting. He said the resolution contains an open call for a cease-fire and for renouncing the use of force, and is in line with Security Council Resolution 924.

Asked whether southern forces have received military aid from Arab states, al-Asnaj said, "we are aware of regional conditions and do appreciate them. We are asking for nothing at this stage beyond condemnation and work to halt the continuing war launched by the Sanaa rulers."

On his assessment of the U.S. role, al-Asnaj said: "We are in touch with the United States and the permanent member states of the Security Council." He also said: "We are satisfied with the U.S. position, which is in line with the position declared by the GCC states." [passage omitted]

YSP Official on Fighting, U.S., Iraqi Stands

NC0906133594 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 6 Jun 93 pp 31, 32

[Fax interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)

and member of the Aden Presidential Council, in London; by an unidentified AL-SHIRA' correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHIRA'] Was your presence and that of other south Yemeni leaders abroad when the war broke out a coincidence or was it planned?

[Muhammad] I was on a mission to brief Arab presidents and kings on the other side's preparations for war and to appeal to them to intervene to prevent it. The other party, however, went ahead with its preparations and the war broke out while I was receiving medical treatment in London.

[AL-SHIRA'] What were your expectations before going abroad? How do you view the military situation now? What areas are under 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's control and what areas remain in your hands?

[Muhammad] When Yemeni unity was peacefully and democratically attained, certain influential circles in Sanaa were not happy with the way it was brought about. So they created difficulties and challenges from the first day, including assassinations, the abolishing of the new state's institutions, involvement in the Gulf war, undermining the economy, and finally making the decision to begin the current war. There is now fighting in Ta'izz, Lahij, Abyan, Shabwah, and Ma'rib. The two capital cities are subjected to missile attacks and air raids. The northerners are losing thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks and other vehicles for every small advance they make into al-'Anad Base or Abyan. No matter how many areas 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih controls, the logic of force and its consequences are unacceptable. The outcome of occupation and invasion will be overturned sooner or later. An examination of Yemeni history will illustrate this point.

[AL-SHIRA'] Are you preparing yourselves for a war of attrition? Where are you getting the weapons?

[Muhammad] We did not begin the war. We do not want war at all. The area that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is now invading fought off the British Empire, the Turks, and the Portuguese. It has been a graveyard for invaders. There is strong resistance despite the ferocity of the battles.

[AL-SHIRA'] Are you afraid Aden will turn into another Sarajevo?

[Muhammad] Although our army is much smaller and our areas are less populous than the north, the heroic steadfastness of our warriors has upset their numerical superiority. Aden's quicksand and mighty waves will drown the forces they are massing to attack the city.

[AL-SHIRA'] Why has the oil not been attacked yet?

[Muhammad] We respect the investments and interests of others. We have the capability to hit Ma'rib and al-Hudaydah but we wish to protect the Yemeni people's interests and other people's interests. The other side, however, has struck at these interests by hitting Aden's refineries and is trying to approach and control the oil installations in Shabwah.

[AL-SHIRA'] Was there no alternative to your separation?

[Muhammad] What other response do you expect from people who find war, destruction, and death imposed on them? What other option is there?

[AL-SHIRA'] Don't you think that giving up power for the sake of unity is a worthwhile sacrifice?

[Muhammad] We were idealists and gave up power for the sake of unity. We accepted a two-way and even a three-way partnership and believed that this idealism would find a favorable response. The bitter facts proved that the other side wished to dominate us, abolish our rights, and monopolize everything. We discovered that the unity we had dreamed of was not realized in substance or form. We will leave this to political analysts to judge later and decide which side wanted unity and which side is actually separatist.

[AL-SHIRA'] Have you been using the tactic of luring the northerners to the south to prolong the war and sap their capabilities for a political purpose? Are you trying to get Arab-international intervention that will formalize the current status?

[Muhammad] The next few days will answer this question.

[AL-SHIRA'] What is the actual U.S. position on the issue? Is it true that coordination between you and the United States began when [Yemeni Socialist Party Secretary General] 'Ali Salim al-Bid visited the United States and met with U.S. Vice President Al Gore?

[Muhammad] We hope that the U.S. attitude will be consistent with the U.S. position on the new world order and its views on democracy, human rights, renunciation of violence and terrorism, rejection of military dictatorship, and respect for all nations' mutual economic interests on an equal basis. The Sanaa party does not respect these principles, judging by its atrocious conduct before and during the war.

[AL-SHIRA'] How do you assess the roles played by the Arab countries?

[Muhammad] There is no effective Arab role. It has been paralyzed since the Gulf war. The Egyptian, Saudi, Syrian, and Emirian appeals to end the fighting are welcome but what we actually need is a firm Arab position to end the war and make the two parties accept dialogue to reach solutions satisfactory to both sides. As to the Iraqi position on the issue, the statement issued by the National Command [of the Iraqi Arab Ba'th Socialist Party] and the attitudes shown by their representatives at the Arab League demonstrates Iraq's position. Iraqi officials are also making visits and sending Republican Guard experts and experts in other fields to the north.

We used to believe that Iraq was concerned with improving its poor economic conditions instead of meddling in other people's affairs but it appears that the militarist mentality that ruined many of our Arab countries is now shared by the Iraqi regime and the Sanaa regime.

[AL-SHIRA'] When will the Arabs and the world recognize you? Why has this recognition been delayed?

[Muhammad] Arab and international circles acknowledge that there are two Yemens. Recognition that we are two equal parties exists. How else would you explain the referral of this issue to the Arab League and the UN Security Council? The representatives of south Yemen were accorded the same level of reception as the representatives of the north.

'Official Source' Welcomes U.S., Arab Stands on Sanaa

EA0906120094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] An official source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] welcomed the American stand concerning the necessity of Sanaa's obligations to the UN Security Council's resolution on cease-fire and not to impose unity by force.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, Aden, the source also praised the communique of the Arab Gulf countries, members of the Cooperation Council, and the communique of the ARE [Arab Republic of Egypt] expressing thanks to the fraternals in the Gulf and Egypt for their positive stand which shows eagerness about Yemen's land and people.

The source added: We announce our thanks to the Arab community and the world community, which rejected the law of force, destruction and bloodshed, and we would like to confirm our obligation to the Security Council Resolution No. 924 and that Sanaa is trying to deceive the world just as it did in the night of the blessed 'Id al-Adha when it announced a cease-fire and gave its orders to its forces to resume fighting.

The source said: We are picking up signals of orders by the head of the Sanaa regime to these forces in the fighting fronts to regather and mobilize themselves in an offensive position on our country. And, as for us, we will commit ourselves to the resolution of the world community and we will not do any military action except in defense against the awaited attack.

Aden Claims Iraqis Involved in Conflict

EA1006094994 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Military sources in Aden have revealed one of the barbaric methods used by the military command in Sanaa with the pilots who carry out air raids on the Democratic Republic of Yemen. The same sources told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden, that the Air Force Command of the bloody al-Ahmar family is making the ejectable seats on military planes inoperative. These seats are used by pilots to bail out when their planes have been hit.

The sources added that this method used by the influential military commands without the pilots' knowledge confirms the disregard these commands have for the lives of the pilots who carry out these savage raids. These sources recalled a similar method used by Iraqi military commands with their pilots during the Gulf War and said that this method currently used by the military commands in Sanaa confirm beyond any doubt the involvement of Iraqi military expertise in the dirty war waged by the al-Ahmar gang against the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Aden 'Minister' Praises Kuwaiti Coverage of War

EA0906202094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, the minister of oil and minerals and military commander of the interior axis, praised the state of Kuwait's principled stand. He praised Kuwait's press for its covering of the events. Mr. Bin-Husaynun said in a contact with the AL-QABAS newspaper, published today, that the northern forces had attacked yesterday morning the southern forces at al-'Akbar/Askar axis, and that after violent fighting several northern tanks were destroyed and 11 soldiers were taken prisoner. Bin- Husaynun said that the battle on this axis had begun on 2 June, when the Maghawir forces tried to infiltrate into Khash'in al-Ayn, and were repelled by our forces after fierce fighting. Our Armed Forces destroyed a tank squadron and took 15 soldiers prisoner. The enemy ran away, leaving back a number of artillery, and killed and injured soldiers. Last Tuesday [7 June] the northern forces launched an attack, despite the cease-fire declaration. The enemy suffered the destruction of seven tanks, and the death of soldiers and imprisoning of others, and the shooting down of a MiG-21 warplane.

Opposition Says Kurdistan Situation 'Under Control'

PM0906151294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 5

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Iraqi Opposition Stresses Situation in Kurdistan Under Control"]

[Excerpts] London—An Iraqi opposition official has stressed that the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan is now under control after a month of armed conflict over power between the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Mas'ud Barzani, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Jalal Talabani. The conflict resulted in the deaths of at least 600 ordinary citizens from the two sides.

Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, head of the [Unified] Iraqi National Congress Executive Bureau, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone yesterday from his residence in the city of Salah al-Din in north Iraq that "life has returned to normal" in most Kurdish areas since the meeting held last Sunday between Barzani and Talabani. [passage omitted]

Asked about the clashes that broke out the day before yesterday in the Qal'at Dizah and Halabjah areas near the border with Iran, al-Jalabi said that the National Congress, which has been entrusted with the task of disengaging the warring militias, sent forces belonging to it to these areas yesterday "to disengage the forces and prevent fighting from breaking out between them."

PUK (Talabani) sources accused joint forces of the KDP (Barzani) and Kurdish Islamic organizations, which are accused of collaborating with Iran and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, of attacking PUK positions in these areas. But sources from Barzani's party have denied that the KDP forces participated in these clashes, which they said took place between "PUK forces and Islamic Movement forces only."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a tripartite meeting bringing together leaders from Barzani's party, Talabani's party, and the Islamic Movement was held yesterday in Irbil to discuss ways of stopping the clashes in the border areas. [passage omitted]

National Assembly Committee To Explain Sanctions

JN0506113094 Baghdad INA in English 0900 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 5, INA—Arab and International Relations Committee of the National Assembly is currently working out a plan for the coming period on the political moves to illustrate Iraq's viewpoint vis-a-vis UN Security Council resolutions and expose attempts by some parties to prolong the imposition of the anti-Iraq sanctions for realizing political purposes unrelated to the original texts of the UN resolutions.

Vice-chairman of the committee Taha Ahmad al-Dawud was quoted by a local daily as saying that the plan aims at urging the world politicians and parliamentarians, and those of Britain and the U.S. in particular to work for lifting the anti-Iraq sanctions and holding the U.S. and Britain responsible for the death of tens of thousands of Iraqis and the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure.

The plan, moreover, will make it clear that the continuation of the economic blockade runs counter to human rights and Washington's and London's claims and boasts of being the ardent advocates of human rights, said Mr. al-Dawud.

He went on to say that invitation will be sent to a number of world MPs to visit Iraq for dialoge and to get acquainted with the negative consequences of the U.S.-allied aggression and the continuation of the UN-imposed economic sanctions.

The committee's plan also aims at urging the world MPs to exercise pressure on their governments towards lifting the embargo.

Moreover, the National Assembly, through its Arab and International Relations Committee will work for holding talks with MPs of the Security Council member-states in addition to exchanging letters with heads of the world parliaments on their stands and Iraq's stand vis-a-vis UN Security Council resolutions and allegations and claims aired by iraq's enemies to divert the world's attention from the recent positive development in the stands of a number of the UN Security Council member-states and in a bid to manipulate the world public opinion, Mr. al-Dawud concluded.

National Assembly Appeals To Lift Blockade

JN0606195294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jun (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly has appealed to the world parliaments and the international and Arab organizations concerned with the health, environment, and development affairs, as well as to popular gatherings, world environmental parties, and the forces which love good and peace to pressure their governments into playing an effective role to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq.

In a statement issued today on the world environment day, the assembly pointed out that the Iraqi people are denied the simplest requirements of life; namely, food and medicines, with the full knowledge of the UN organizations. It also pointed to the practices pursued by such UN institutions on the pretext of protecting human rights.

The statement added that safeguarding the world environment should emanate from curbing the U.S. policy which is hostile to the world states and people. In this regard, the statement pointed to the aggressive war against Iraq which destroyed drinking water purification

stations, sewage disposal stations, fuel tanks, and oil wells. This resulted in the worst environmental disaster in the world.

The statement stressed the need for consolidating and continuing the efforts to safeguard both the environment and public health as a prelude to lifting the unfair economic blockade on the Iraqi people because it would be another environmental and health gain on the international level.

Iraq To Attend Shipping Company Meetings

JN0406154494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 May 94 p 4

[Text] Iraq will participate in the meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Arab Shipping Company in Cairo on 29 May. Khalid Salih 'Ammar, board member and head of the Iraqi delegation, said the board will discuss the company's final 1993 accounts and the operational report on the company's ships. He said the company, which ships goods between the Arab Gulf states and the world, includes in its membership five Gulf states in addition to Iraq.

Iraq will also participate in the third meeting of the fourth session of the Board of Directors of the Arab Bridge Company in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 30 May. Khalid Salih 'Ammar, vice chairman of the board, told the Iraqi News Agency that the meeting will discuss the company's operational plan for the first quarter of this year, its 1993 profits of $9.798 million, and the implementation of the General Association's decisions, including building the company's new offices at the Jordanian Port of al- 'Aqabah.

The company, whose members are Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq, carries passengers between the Jordanian Port of al-'Aqabah and the Egyptian Port of Nuwaybi'.

KDP Advocates UN Protectorate, Demilitarization

PM1006123794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Mas'ud Barzani, has stressed that the "initiative" taken by the Kurdish leader Barzani for the declaration of Iraqi Kurdistan as a "UN protectorate" is "of a temporary nature linked to the downfall of the Iraqi regime, and would not affect the issues of democracy for Iraq and federation for Kurdistan."

A KDP spokesman in London has told AL-HAYAH that the initiative "is based on Chapter 12 of the UN Charter, defining UN protection and trusteeship." He emphasized that the Iraqi Kurdish region "requires a definition of status under international law on which dealings with the Kurdish administration would be based."

Barzani had linked his proposal to the "failure" of the Kurdish administration experiment, especially the powersharing between his party and Jalal Talabani's party (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]). He particularly underscored the demilitarization of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The spokesman pointed out that the proposal-initiative has "political, economic, and humanitarian dimensions and, at any rate, it is up for discussion locally (in the Kurdish areas), at Iraqi resistance level, and at the international level. There is an urgent need for a stable political situation in northern Iraq."

He said that "one point in the initiative's favor is the regime's violation of international law and the fact that it has completely blockaded Kurdistan, thereby isolating it from the rest of Iraq." He drew attention to the importance of "securing a more stable economic situation in that the international community should take more serious measures to tackle the two blockades: the local and the international." He affirmed that "there should be a more stable political situation after demilitarization."

It is worth noting that Barzani's proposal calling for the demilitarization of northern Iraq and for making it a UN protectorate came after a month of fighting between his party's forces and the forces of Talabani's party.

The KDP spokesman confirmed that future meetings between the two leaders "would be devoted to the discussion of ways of ending the crisis and finding alternatives to this experiment." He emphasized that the KDP did not take part in the fighting which broke out the day before yesterday in the area of Qal'at Dizah near the Iranian border. He said the fighting was between Talabani's forces and forces of the Islamic Movement.

PUK sources have denied yesterday's IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY report that the KDP and the Islamic Movement's forces seized control of Banjwin and Qal'at Dizah. The sources did not say how many casualties fell in the fighting of two days ago. The agency had quoted an Islamic Movement official as saying that the PUK suffered a large number of casualties. It also expected the leaders of the three parties to meet in Irbil yesterday to try to contain the fighting.

Palestinian Prisoner Release Continues

TA0906144994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Prison Services Authority are continuing to release Palestinian prisoners today as stipulated by the Cairo agreement. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 350 prisoners are currently making their way to the Nahal 'Oz checkpoint at the entrance to the Gaza Strip.

Rabin: Jordan Demonstrates 'Readiness' for Treaty

TA0906165994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that today's stabbing in Jerusalem was not connected to the political changes happening in the region but was part of the ongoing war against murderous organizations which sought to kill Jews. These organizations tried to murder Jews in the past, are continuing to do so, and will pursue their attempts in the future, the prime minister told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal upon leaving a meeting of the Labor party bureau. Mr. Rabin nevertheless pointed out that in recent weeks, the number of terrorist attacks had dropped to a certain extent.

The prime minister said that Jordan was demonstrating a readiness to reach a peace treaty with Israel and this was greatly facilitating the negotiations between the two countries. The very discussion of the elements of a peace treaty was important in itself, Rabin said, and one should hope that within the framework of these efforts, steps would be taken to strengthen normalization between the two countries—for example, with regard to free movement and the Elat-Egypt highway.

As for the negotiations with Syria, the prime minister said that the gaps between the parties' positions were still large and he did not expect a breakthrough or what he described as a miracle.

Peres Discusses Peace Process, Jerusalem

TA0906193994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by moderator Shlomo Ganor and political correspondent Eli Nisan on 9 June; on the weekly "Encounter" program—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Good evening, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peres, upon the completion of the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, would it be correct to say that we are at a crossroads in the political process? How should we proceed and what path should we take?

[Peres] I would only like to remind you that about nine or 10 months ago nobody believed that the Gaza-Jericho matter would become a reality so quickly. After we reached the Oslo accord it was stated that the accord would be very difficult to implement in the area. We now have an agreement which was implemented in the area. So far— God willing, as they say—matters are working better than what we thought.

[Ganor] Where do we stand?

[Peres] We should continue now. We have four arenas: the Palestinian one—we should decide how to proceed on it; the Jordanian; the Syrian; and the entire Middle East. I know I have not mentioned Lebanon, but this is because I believe Lebanon can be discussed in the Syrian context only.

[Nisan] Mr. Peres, has the performance of the Palestinian Authority met the expectations from it so far?

[Peres] There were various expectations, but the majority thought it would not work at all. Yesterday I saw people who went through Jericho and said they simply could not believe their eyes. The police were there and order prevailed, and the same applies in Gaza. In my opinion, the main problem is an economic one. If the laborers from the territories are prepared to come here for work and knives are used for cutting bread rather than stabbing people, the situation in Gaza and Jericho can change at once.

[Ganor] This is in line with the World Bank demand that Israel lift the closure and enable the laborers to come to Israel for work, thus alleviating the economic distress. The question is whether you will recommend to the government that the closure be lifted.

[Peres] The closure is being lifted gradually and carefully. After all, the closure is not an Israeli caprice. This is a measure aimed at preventing the murder of people by laborers, including those who have worked at the same work place for years. If we realize that the opening of all gates to work does not involve danger, they will certainly be opened wide.

[Nisan] Mr. Peres, you noted the economic problem. The donor countries which pledged funds to the Palestinian Authority are not funneling them. The question is what role Israel plays here. Will Israel be willing to extend general and financial aid to this authority?

[Peres] Not only will Israel will be willing to do so, but it is doing so already. In fact, we paid about 20,000 wages in May in Gaza, and reference is not only to Civil Administration workers, but also to other work places, in order to relieve the distress caused by unemployment. This month we supplied medication for another three months. Licenses were issued to more than 10,000 laborers to come work in Israel. If all the other countries somewhat advance the implementation of their cash commitments, Israel will do the same.

[Nisan] Is Israel exercising its influence and moral power to get the European countries and international bodies to aid the Palestinian Authority?

[Peres] Absolutely. Participating in the discussions by the donor countries are the director general of the Foreign Ministry together with the person in charge of the territories. We will surely tell the donor countries what the practical needs are, and why it is important to act quickly and not leave a vacuum which can definitely endanger the implementation of the accord.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, at a Labor faction meeting this week you warned that if the momentum in the negotiations with the Palestinians does not continue, the intifadah may erupt anew. When do you intend to start the negotiations on early empowerment for the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria?

[Peres] I think all parties want to rest a little, particularly from unnecessary speeches. Look, there were two processes here. There was a practical process of introducing basic changes on the ground, and a verbal process which angered the entire world. We need the clouds of verbosity to disperse so that the change in the area can be observed, at which time I believe we will be able to resume the negotiations with the Palestinians.

[Ganor] The clouds of verbosity come from the other party: 'Arafat's statements, for instance.

[Peres] Yes. He simply may not be aware of all the facts or, alternatively, he made totally unnecessary remarks. In Johannesburg he said, for example: Look, I am hesitant about signing. I hesitated because I was not prepared to sign before I received a letter on the Jerusalem issue. In Cairo he was not given any letter on the Jerusalem issue. Our denial was true and genuine. No negotiations over this took place in Cairo. We did not know then that he was referring to Holst's letter. Holst's letter was written much earlier. Cairo was not necessary for that.

[Ganor] However, for all practical purposes, Mr. Peres, you are already starting the Jerusalem segment of our program. What is the attitude of Israeli officials in Jerusalem toward the Palestinian declarations that East Jerusalem will ultimately become the capital of the Palestinian state?

[Peres] We regard this as mere dreaming, not reality. Look, we cannot forbid people to dream, we cannot stop people from talking. However, in my opinion—and we have also told the Palestinians this—we are very adamant about our position. Jerusalem will not be redivided. It will not be a Berlin. We shall establish neither barriers nor walls there. A city can only be the capital of one country. One cannot have two capitals in one city because that would mean a division of Jerusalem. It is the historical capital of Israel and Israel's capital today. We added that we have no intention of harming the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem or their existing institutions. In summation, I would say that in the political sense, the issue of Jerusalem is closed and it will remain the united capital of Israel, whereas from the religious aspect it will remain an open, spiritual center for the three monotheistic religions.

[Ganor] What should the Palestinians watching our program understand from your reply?

[Peres] That everything is open from the religious aspect. We will respect every sentiment, every prayer, and every religious need. We will not sacrifice Jerusalem to radical political plans. One should recall that throughout all of history, Jerusalem was never an Arab capital and one should also recall that the Jewish people never had any other capital but Jerusalem.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, which steps does the Israeli Government intend to take in order to maintain the current status quo in East Jerusalem and prevent it from being undermined by the other side?

[Peres] We have made ourselves very clear. The Palestinian Authority must handle autonomy-related affairs from Jericho. We will not countenance any transfer of institutions from Jericho to Jerusalem. This violates the agreement and the nature of Jerusalem.

[Ganor] Are we talking about legislative steps, orders, or limitations on some people who are members of the Palestinian Authority in order to prevent them from establishing representations in Jerusalem?

[Peres] If people uphold the law, then no other laws will be necessary. The existing laws are sufficient. First, we expect them to uphold the existing laws. For example, there is no room for Palestinian police in East Jerusalem. There is only one police force, one army, and one government. Educational, religious, and medical institutions, on the other hand, could definitely be permitted.

[Ganor] But these were not the institutions the government was referring to when it said it would enact legislation to prevent any changes to the status quo in East Jerusalem.

[Peres] We are now looking into the issue. If the status quo has been broken, which is apparently the case here and there, we will examine whether these breaches can be rectified through existing laws or whether additional legislation is called for. The issue is still not clear. It may very well be that any deviations from the law may be rectified through the use of existing legislation and no new laws are necessary.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, the issue of Jerusalem, at least according to the reports, was the main bone of contention. Two days before the signing of the Oslo agreement, 'Arafat almost refused to sign.

[Peres] One day before, yes.

[Ganor] A day before. What happened? How was 'Arafat persuaded that he could concede on the issue of Jerusalem?

[Peres] Look, from the very beginning we said that we were offering the Gaza Strip plus Jericho. This, in order to establish the administrative institutions of the Palestinian autonomy in Jericho. We said that on no account

would we ever agree to the establishment of these institutions in Jerusalem. On that dramatic night in Stockholm when we were constantly on the telephone with Tunisia, I explained very forcefully to them that it was either Jericho or no agreement. That was their choice. On the other hand, we stated what I am saying now as well. All the existing insitutions in Jerusalem will be preserved. We have no intention of harming people or institutions. We do not wish to offend their dignity or sensitivities either. I made a clear promise to that effect.

[Ganor] Does raising the Jerusalem issue at this stage not expedite the discussion of the permanent arrangement?

[Peres] No, not at all. Whoever proposes discussing the permanent arrangement now is actually perpetualizing the conflict. Let us say we start discussions on the permanent arrangement and they raise the issue of Jerusalem. I cannot see where an agreement can provide a solution with regard to the issue of Jerusalem, certainly not today. If you want to highlight the fact that we cannot reach agreement then this is possible. But what is the point? I would like to say that today the problem is more one of relations than borders. Some people think that if we demarcate borders then relations will improve. I think that if we establish a new relationship then we will be able to demarcate the future borders. Let us take the example of Hebron. There are 120,000 Arabs and 500 Jews in Hebron. Would this be a problem if relations were good? In Ma'alot Tarshiha there are both Jewish and Arab communities. Is there any problem there? Are there any problems in Yafo or in Haifa? Arabs and Jews can therefore live together when they have a different relationship. What we all should be doing now is improving relations so that neither side is afraid of the other. Therefore, we should also watch what we are saying. Today, people want barriers and barbed wire fences. That is no way to live or to maintain peace. We need understandings and we need to prove that human beings can live together even if they belong to different peoples.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, with regard to your letter to the Norwegian foreign minister, some people say that the very fact that a letter was sent to the PLO grants the PLO a position of patronage and preeminence in East Jerusalem at the expense of other Islamic and Christian elements.

[Peres] First, the PLO is not mentioned in my letter. The word PLO is not mentioned. That is the reason I wrote it to the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst and not to 'Arafat, although the contents of the letter are not secret and can be made known to everyone. This is to demonstrate that the Jerusalem issue had not been decided, let us say, in favor of 'Arafat. Nothing of the sort was decided. We know that the Jordanians are sensitive about the Waqf. We will not take any religious authorities from Jordan and give them to another party. We have no intention of changing the status quo to the benefit or the detriment of anybody. We will neither intervene nor meddle in inter-Arab relations.

[Ganor] In order to end the chapter on Jerusalem, which will certainly be discussed further in the future, let me ask you if the Israeli Government will accede to Yasir 'Arafat's request to visit Jerusalem if he indeed submits such a request?

[Peres] Leave something for a future interview. Why should we answer all the questions now? No such request has been submitted and I therefore cannot give you an answer.

[Ganor] But in principle?

[Peres] We will discuss the matter in principle when it is put to the test.

[Ganor] With your permission sir, let us move on to Jordan, the second topic of discussion we posited at the beginning of our program. Can the understandings reached during this week's talks in Washington between Jordan and Israel be viewed as an opening toward the reaching of a peace treaty between the two countries?

[Peres] Definitely. I think that significant progress has been made although obstacles can still be raised. After all, any child can see the necessity of peace with Jordan. The possibility of reaching this peace is also evident. One does not need a telescope to see this as well as the fact that the time has come and that both the Jordanians and the Israelis will greatly benefit from peace. The entire Syrian-African Rift—and I keep on saying this—between Lake Tiberias and Elat, instead of being a wasteland of hatred and separation can become a fertile valley supplying jobs to thousands of workers from both sides of the Jordan River, both Jordanians and Israelis. We can attract hundreds of millions of dollars in investments for water desalination plants, tourism ventures, agriculture. There are extraordinary plans and companies are interested in investing. I heard the Jordanian information minister say that Jordan would not miss the train. We feared that the Syrians were holding them back. If the Syrians do not hold them back then there are no hindrances to Jordanian-Israeli relations. I keep on saying this. We told the Jordanians that we can discuss borders and water issues if they are serious about peace. If they seriously intend to reach peace then the time has come to do what is necessary for the benefit of both peoples and peace.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, in light of your remarks and in light of the agreements and understandings reached with the Jordanians this week at the committees and economic talks, do you expect Jordan and Israel to sign a peace treaty in the coming year?

[Peres] I do not want to commit myself to dates. I do not expect anything; I merely act. I cannot tell you what will happen. Things do not happen by themselves. As a representative of the Israeli public and a cabinet minister, I can state that we have to act continuously and resolutely to release the citizens of both Jordan and Israel from this artificial state of war. There is no need or foundation for this. It is a total waste of time. The sooner

we achieve it, the greater service we will have done our peoples, and it is a pity that things have been put off for so long.

[Ganor] If not peace, do you anticipate at least a normalization in relations with Jordan in the near future?

[Peres] The difference between normal relations and peace is not great. Peace means normalization. What else is normalization? But you know, I am a practical man and we must welcome everything that promotes peace.

[Ganor] What is behind Amman's dramatic change over the last week? Was it a green light from Damascus?

[Peres] I cannot tell you. I was not at the meeting between President al-Asad and King Husayn. They may also have concluded that progress is possible and each party should act independently. One must also take into account the implementation of the agreement with the PLO on the Gaza Strip and Jericho. There is also something that I have been saying all the time: we are a three-sided triangle. No side should act against the others. It is better that we work together as a triangle, at least in the economic sense. On numerous occasions I proposed that we cooperate together on economic issues in a Benelux-style arrangement, that is, economic cooperation between three countries. Politically, we should act as two separate entities: a Palestinian-Jordanian entity and an Israeli entity.

[Ganor] But Jordan rejected your idea to host an international economic conference in Amman?

[Peres] Jordan says that it rejected the proposed date, not the idea itself. Now Jordan has announced that it has adopted my conference proposal but at a later date. The Jordanians claimed that if the conference was held before progress in the negotiations then the world would get the impression that Jordan could be bought with a conference. Some kind of payoff. I do not subscribe to this view. I think that this conference was not held with the intention of buying off anyone but rather to build things. I think that such a conference would have facilitated, not held up, the negotiations.

[Ganor] Would it not compete with the conference that you and King Hassan last Friday agreed to hold in Morocco?

[Peres] Yes, it is now understood that the second international conference—if such a conference is indeed held in Jordan—will take place at the beginning of 1995. The conference in Morocco is scheduled for the end of October or the beginning of November. After a year, or nine months, it can be continued in Jordan.

[Ganor] Still, Saudi Arabia is creating obstacles to the entire issue of lifting the anti-Israel boycott.

[Peres] Saudi Arabia is beginning to be problematic. We still remember how Saudi Ambassador to the United States Bandar arrived in New York to meet with Jews, to tell them that Saudi Arabia is peace-oriented, that if settlements cease and the Palestinians are recognized, then certain things will follow. To my great regret, a delay occurred in, say, Saudi support for peace. At the meeting of the working group in Qatar recently, on arms control—on supervising the level of armament and on disarmament—the Saudis were totally negative.

[Ganor] Did Israel or the United States chastise the Saudis about this?

[Peres] What do you mean by chastising? We say this to the Americans too. The Saudis may be angry at the Gulf emirates which do not abide by the Arab Peninsula's discipline and the like, but it is very difficult for us to decipher Saudi Arabia's conduct. Saudi Arabia needs to decide whether it wants or opposes peace. If it opposes peace, we will reach our conclusions. It is not us who threatens Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia knows precisely who threatens it. In general, many Arab countries know that if there is any threat, it emanates from Teheran, not from Jerusalem. If Saudi Arabia wants chaos in the Middle East, of continued wars, of a continued arms race, it can surely conduct a negative policy, but it is about time it decides where it is heading.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, what do you learn from the Syrian position about its readiness to break the deadlock on the Israeli-Syrian track? Is there a change in the Syrian position on the eve of Warren Christopher's possible arrival in the region this month?

[Peres] I would not say that a breakthrough has been achieved yet. Look, if Syria truly wants a normalization of relations, it should start with normalization in contacts. Again, desiring high-level meetings, of heads of state or ministers, is not an Israeli caprice. The point is that our people are very skeptical about what Syria truly wants. Nobody doubts that Syria wants the Golan Heights back, but is Syria truly prepared to go for acceptable security arrangements? Is Syria truly prepared to give peace without tricks, without additions or deletions? There is a doubt here, and it is incumbent on the Syrian leaders to appear publicly and openly in the negotiations with us so as to reach results.

Let me tell you, the negotiations we held with the PLO were very difficult. They were difficult both for them and for us. Take that night in Cairo, for example: The Israeli delegation—the prime minister, the foreign minister, army people, and others—was convened in one room; the 'Arafat-led PLO delegation sat in a second room; and President Mubarak, 'Amr Musa, Warren Christopher and his aides, sat in a third room. It was possible then to move from one room to another and smooth things out, surmount obstacles, and come up with creative solutions at moments of crisis, and it was that night which enabled the negotiations to emerge from their infancy and assume adulthood. It is impossible to conduct negotiations by exchanging formal opinions constantly. After all, formally speaking, we do not have an agreement: We and they want different things, so how are the differences bridged? They are first bridged through meetings and

negotiations by those who are allowed to put up the bridge. In my opinion then, there are two types of discussions. There is a discussion on contents, and there is a discussion on method [last word in English]. It is the method at least which should be changed. If one wants a normalization in relations, one needs a normalization in contacts, in negotiations.

[Ganor] Over the past two weeks, since the secretary of State's visit to the region, was there a short circuit between Jerusalem and Damascus, or has Washington engaged in contacts through diplomatic channels in an attempt to build the bridge you are discussing?

[Peres] I believe that Washington constantly tries to establish a bridgehead, on the Syrian side as well as on ours, and I think it is this which decides the date of Christopher's visits to the region. In other words, he wants to come when he has enough cement in his hand to start building some bridgehead.

[Ganor] Does he have cement in his hand then?

[Peres] Not enough, in my opinion.

[Ganor] Have U.S. proposals been conveyed to both sides over the last two weeks?

[Peres] No, I do not think so. Nor do I think the Americans want to act this way. They are very cautious. They do not want to appear as people who impose their opinion on others.

[Ganor] Do you expect the United States to increase its involvement, perhaps in the future, if no solution is found on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Peres] I believe in the sincerity and seriousness of the United States. I really believe that just like Israel it seeks a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Therefore, Washington will not cease its efforts. The frequency of these contacts and of the shuttle diplomacy also depend on the reactions of both sides.

[Ganor] Are the gaps between the positions of both sides still large?

[Peres] There is still a gap between the positions of both sides in all three domains.

[Ganor] Nevertheless, the Jordanian prime minister was this week quoted as saying that Syria and Israel had reached an understanding in principle and the only things left open were the period over which the withdrawal would stretch and the abrogation of the Golan Law. You know Dr. al-Majali. Are you prepared to comment on this?

[Peres] Look, it is apparently easier for every prime minister to be optimistic with regard to other countries. Let us concentrate on the Jordanian track in the negotiations with Jordan and on Syria with the Syrians.

[Ganor] What can we expect from the secretary of State's impending visit?

[Peres] The continuation of the attempts to lay a bridgehead between the two parties.

[Ganor] You do not like predicting dates, but you always said that the window of opportunity was either closing or opening. Can we expect a breakthrough in the negotiations with Syria in 1994?

[Peres] I said that the window of opportunity was about to close with regard to the dates. I never gave dates for windows to open. Let me explain what I mean by this. Elections are scheduled to be held in Israel in November 1996. One can assume that the country will be in an uproar one year ahead of that, primaries and arguments, and the Norwegian Law [reference to a law stipulating that cabinet ministers lose their Knesset seats in order to permit their faction to increase its size]. We are already in the middle of 1994, with the grace of God. Politically speaking, we have one year or 15 months to operate at the most. Everyone can see that and that is the window of opportunity that is closing. The possibility to take political action without running smack into pre-election turmoil. Now, I believe that within that period it is possible, but I cannot promise that it will happen, to move on to a second stage in the negotiations with the Palestinians and make significant progress in the negotiations with Jordan, which are crucial in my view. If there is a breakthrough with Syria, I will be very pleased.

[Ganor] Let us end our program on this optimistic note. Thank you for being with us, Mr. Foreign Minister.

Alert in North; Sources Expect Resumed Shelling

TA0906153994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jun 94 pp A1, A8

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] An alert was declared yesterday along the northern border and in south Lebanon following resumed exchanges of fire between the terrorists and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army]. At the same time, there is no intention of reinforcing the army along the border and inside Lebanon, although the alert is being maintained. [passage omitted]

Sources in the defense establishment said yesterday that mainly Hizballah is responsible for the shooting yesterday, although it may be that other organizations took part in the activity against the IDF. Army sources stressed that Hizballah has quickly recovered from the air raid on the organization's camp in Ba'labakk last week and resumed activity in the security zone. This activity is comprised of firing katyushas, as well as placing roadside bombs, remote-control explosive charges, and trip wire charges.

IDF soldiers have been instructed to intensify patrols in the coming period in view of possible attempts by Hizballah terrorist squads to infiltrate into the security zone. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander

of the Northern Command, yesterday stressed that, despite the resumption of the firing of katyushas last week and yesterday, the terrorists have not violated the agreements made at the close of Operation Accountability last year. It is assumed that U.S. and Syrian pressure made Hizballah stop firing katyushas at Israel last week. At the same time, an IDF Intelligence Branch source said recently that it is not inevitable that the firing of katyushas at the northern settlements will resume. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL-HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 9 June carries on page 2 a report by Aharon Klein and Betzal'el 'Amiqam citing remarks by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur at the Knesset yesterday, during a discussion of the events on the northern border. Gur said: "The message the Syrians have received over the last two weeks is that they have no chance of closing the qualitative gap between us. If they consider going back on the peace process, they will know what they are faced with." Gur is further cited as saying that "we will not accept terror, not even if it is supported by Syria, and it is important that the Syrians know this."]

Rabin Says No Meeting Held With Husayn 'This Week'

TA1006054994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Rumors spread through Jerusalem last night that Prime Minister Rabin had recently met with Jordan's King Husayn. This followed a report broadcast on Israel's second television channel that the two leaders last week held talks in Washington. When later asked by reporters if a meeting with King Husayn took place, Rabin responded: I did not meet him this week. Sources close to the prime minister refused to deny or confirm the report. The Prime Minister's Office would not comment on the matter. Sources in Washington said Rabin had not been in the United States since last March.

Meanwhile, the office of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has denied claims that he met King Husayn earlier this month in Europe. Knesset Member Ra'anan Kohen raised the question two days ago in the Knesset.

Al-Majali on Relations With Syria, 'Arafat

PM0806112694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Al-Majali Reaffirms Jordan's 'Displeasure' With 'Arafat's 'Procrastination'; 'Palestinian Golan' Obstructs Agreement Framework Between Syria and Israel"]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has stated that there is an "agreement of views" [tawafuq] between the United States and Syria on the "main lines" of a Syrian-Israeli agreement on the Golan Heights, and that what is obstructing the achievement of an agreement framework is a dispute over a strategic piece of land known as "the Palestinian Golan." Parliamentary sources have revealed to AL-HAYAH that al-Majali told the deputies in a closed session held the evening of the day before yesterday that "there is an agreement of views" between the United States and Syria on the main lines of a settlement, "but Israel still has reservations regarding al-Himmah triangle which Syria considers to be its own." The sources quoted al-Majali as saying that Syria "is requesting that the triangle be given back to it on the grounds that it had belonged to Syria since 1938."

Al-Majali said Egypt considers the triangle, known as "the Palestinian Golan," to belong to the Palestinians, and therefore negotiations on it should be between Israel and the PLO, according to parliamentary sources. Al-Himmah triangle is located at the point where the territories of Syria, Israel, and Jordan meet (north of the Jordanian kingdom).

Al-Majali also revealed that there is a border dispute between Jordan and Syria, and another dispute over water quotas, although he did say that relations are "at their best."

At the secret session of the House of Representatives, al-Majali also revealed that, during King Husayn's recent talks with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, Syria asked of Jordan a level "higher than coordination" in their bilateral relations. The parliamentary sources interpreted the Syrian request as a call for some form of integration or unity.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that al-Majali told the deputies that the reply to Syria was briefly that Jordan "believes in coordination provided relations are not based just on slogans and emotions but rather on reason and a scientific approach."

He also said a Syrian delegation headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and including Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will visit Amman on Saturday [11 June] for the meetings of the Syrian-Jordanian Higher Committee, which will be meeting for the first time since the Gulf crisis to discuss development of economic and political bilateral relations.

He told the deputies that Syrian-Jordanian relations are at their best, with the exception of "some problems" related to water quotas and border posts. The parliamentary sources said Jordan is still urging Syria to stop exceeding its share of water from al-Yarmuk River.

It is worth noting that Israel is also taking a part of Jordan's share in the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers.

The same sources said the border dispute is over a Syrian request to replace al-Ramtha border post with a border post in the area of Jabir on the border between the two countries. Jordan agrees to the introduction of a border post in Jabir, provided the border post at al-Ramtha remains.

The prime minister also said King Husayn contacted the Syrian president the day before yesterday, and the latter confirmed that the Syrian delegation will arrive in Amman on Saturday.

The sources quoted al-Majali as saying that the Syrians are still refusing to participate in the multilateral negotiations "to avoid discussion of the issue of water rights, particularly our rights to water controlled by Syria."

Reviewing Jordanian-Palestinian relations, al-Majali expressed Jordan's displeasure with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's procrastination, failure to coordinate with Jordan, and disregard for Jordanian interests.

The parliamentary sources also quoted al-Majali as saying that "we talk a lot about Palestinian coordination with Jordan, which we seek and hope for, but in practical terms it is nonexistent." He pointed out that the Palestinian coordination committees "come for a meeting every time his excellency President 'Arafat comes, and we explain the situation clearly and underline the seriousness of the matter for us both, and point out that coordination does not mean that we would lead or dominate them...."

He added: "We thought that, by virtue of our experience as a state, we were qualified to help and aid them in their affairs as they are about to build their own entity...but President 'Arafat always insists on speaking in generalities, and he ignores details and the work of the (joint) committees."

Al-Majali added that when the PLO sent Ahmad Quray' (Abu-al-'Ala'), head of the PLO Economic Department, to Jordan with the aim of arriving at an economic agreement after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was signed in Paris; "an agreement was reached, but they postponed the signing...and that remains the case to this day."

He said that, in his view, what is going on now "is an attempt to drag (Jordan) along, in that the Israelis and the Palestinians reach agreement and then drag us along. We categorically reject that."

He added: "In the past, we excused them because their attention was focused on survival, symbols, and sovereignty and they had no time to discuss details...but at the latest meeting we told them that there will be no excuse after today and that we care about our own interests as they do about theirs...and that if we decided to work alone that would harm them more than it would harm us."

Commenting on al-Majali's statements, Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabarati, speaking on behalf of some of his colleagues, said he supports the general policy of the government in its endeavor to protect Jordan and its interests "proceeding from constant Jordanian principles and adapting to regional and international changes and to the realities on the ground so that Jordan may continue to be a player and not become just a playground as its enemies want it to be." On Jordanian-Palestinian relations, al-Kabariti said "inasmuch as we are eager to save as much as we can of the elements of unity between the two banks (of the Jordan River), and although I believe that we should lay down the basis and rules for building future unitary relations between the two states, God willing, equally, we should not allow these genuine feelings to prevent us from carefully examing President Abu-'Ammar's ['Arafat's] policies and his extreme indulgence in tactics at the expense of strategy to the point of ignoring the historical and geographical facts which link our two peoples and countries, and even his clear insistence on moving in the opposite direction to these facts...."

Al-Kabariti urged the government "not to be embarrassed to talk about this matter in detail, and to let all the informational, political, and popular forces participate in a balanced and objective way. The public should be reassured that we resolutely and sincerely turn our attention to Palestine and its interests without the slightest interst in hegemony or control but without that undermining our determination, above all, to protect Jordan's interests, particularly its security, future, and economy, and without becoming captives of courtesies, meetings, and minutes which are the prevailing order these days."

Twenty deputies spoke during the closed session which lasted about three hours. They covered the various issues raised by the prime minister.

Results of Washington Talks 'Step on a Long Road'

JN0906112994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jun 94 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "A Step on a Long Road"]

[Text] The results of the tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli committee in Washington—with regard to the Jordanian-Israeli talks—are considered a step on a long road. This step could lead to achieving tangible progress in the peace process if the Israeli intentions are honest and if the Israeli leaders give momentum to the requirements of this process.

If these results can be seen as a turning point in a negotiating track that has lagged behind for several months, this will be a beginning surrounded by all kinds of dangers. At the front of these dangers is Israel's possible return to its traditional course known for its evasion of requirements, maneuvering over texts and words, and attempting to gain time. We still remember well those Israeli methods.

In light of all this, we must not be overoptimistic or propagate peace scenarios and bilateral or regional cooperation plans before everything becomes clear. That is, we must not be so before Israel rids itself of the mentality that it is the dominating force, and before it agrees on restoring all legitimate and recognized rights.

Therefore, we view the results of the tripartite meetings and the results they produced—in terms of the agreement on a detailed agenda for the Jordanian-Israeli talks—as a first step on a long way and the beginning for all possibilities, including positive possibilities. This will be achieved if Israel's intentions are honest and if the spirit of reconciliation and peace triumphs over the spirit of hegemony and military and ethical superiority.

Defense Minister on Army's Treatment of Resistance

NC0906191294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has asserted that the Lebanese Army is not stopping the resistance because the resistance is carrying out activities against the occupation. He affirmed the official Lebanese stance that when Israel withdraws from the south, the Army will be ready to take on its security duties. We guarantee that there will not be any operations against Israel through the south. Minister Dallul today received doyen of Lebanese editors Milhim Karam, who interviewed him on current issues. [passage omitted]

On the Army's preparedness to assume all security duties in the country, Minister Dallul said the Army has progressed a great deal, but we are preparing it to be able to restore security to the south when Israel withdraws. [passage omitted]

Doyen Karam asked whether the Army was strong enough in the south, especially after some U.S. doubts about this were voiced by Ambassador Hambley. Dallul answered: If the United States or Ambassador Hambley are suggesting that the Army is not confronting the resistance, then this true, because the resistance is carrying out activities against the occupation. Does Washington want us to strike at the resistance in the interest of the occupation? The Army's deployment in the south is strong and extensive. When Israel withdraws, the United States will see that the guarantees we are talking about are serious. But for us to turn into a police force that protects the occupier is something we shall not do. It would be treason to our country.

Minister Dallul denied that the Government has any information about Israeli pilot Ron Arad. When his plane was downed, there was no legitimate authority in Lebanon. We all know that, he said.

He added that extensive investigations are taking place with regard to those who cooperated with Israel by allegedly leading the occupants of the two Israeli aircraft to al-Dirani's home to kidnap him. The defense minister refused to discuss judicial investigations regarding the assassination of [Dany] Sham'un and the church blast, because this is a judicial matter.

With regard to holding Ja'ja' in the Defense Ministry, he said: As defense minister, I have to allocate one of the prisons belonging to the ministry in which to hold the prisoner. So I chose the Defense Ministry's building so that he can be properly interrogated, and for his own sake. As for the way he is being treated, it has become well-known: He asks for juice, toast, or yogurt, and gets whatever he wants. The orders for the food he wants are placed in the name of the officers guarding him rather than in his own name in order to protect him. I believe that his life is more secure inside the Defense Ministry prison than anywhere else. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah on U.S. Stand, Lebanese Situation

NC0806125594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jun 94 p 9

[Interview with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Rif'at Sayyid Ahmad in Beirut's southern suburb; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ahmad] The Arab and Islamic situation is now experiencing changes and events, especially in light of developments in the Arab-Zionist conflict. What is your general assessment of this situation in light of these changes?

[Fadlallah] When we discuss the negotiations that seek to end this conflict, we note a prominent, vital point in these negotiations. This point is that there is an Israeli decision in line with a U.S. decision, and which is encouraged by the United States, to turn the Arab world into one bloc that does not react to any Zionist action or any Western interests, especially those of the United States. The aim is to change the term "Arab moderation" into "Arab capitulation." They are trying to minimize its effect and express it in terms in line with the new world order because the Arabs want to incorporate themselves into this order.

Thus, we have noticed that Zionism, in coordination with the United States, worked to humiliate the Palestinian negotiator and exhaust the Palestinian people during the negotiations phase. This caused political confusion to the negotiators, who accepted the negotiations as a transitional measure that will eventually lead to an Arab regime lacking the structure of a state. This regime, which does not enjoy the people's support, will join all other Arab regimes that suffer separation between their officials and peoples. This will create complexities for the self-rule officials as soon as the rule begins touching off political and security disorder in which they will be unable to adjust to the experiment that Israel said it will monitor prior to deciding its stance on subsequent self-rule negotiations.

Israel will work to benefit from all contradictions in the arena and will use them to cause political and security chaos in the Palestinian situation. Israel will tell the world that the Palestinian people are not qualified to govern themselves. Therefore, we must know that there is a plan to cause confusion for the Palestinians through the negotiations and that there is a plan to humiliate the Palestinian man who will move to strike out and kill. In such a situation, massacres will be committed in the Palestinian arena and daily killings will occur without any U.S. response except general talk about mutual violence.

On the other hand, we notice that the jihad operations carried out by Islamist Palestinians have attracted much attention from U.S. officials to the extent that they deal with 'Arafat based on his rejection of these operations. They want 'Arafat's rejection to be expressed in harsh words and strong denunciation, not just regret, when the

United States is satisfied with just expressing regret for all massacres of Muslims committed by the Jews.

We notice that the Israelis—with encouragement from the United States—are working to demoralize the Palestinians so that they will not contemplate any rejectionist stance as a prelude to demoralizing the Arab and Islamic spirit. It is in this context that we view Zionism's handling of the question of ties with Syria which still stands with considerable steadfastness through its demands countering the Israeli demands.

We notice that Israel sought to empty the Geneva summit of every substantial point that would give Syria moral strength in the view of the U.S. public and administration and we notice that Israel is seeking through its statements to humiliate the Syrian position.

From this quick review, we can deduce a political fact in the political reality and the negotiations, namely that the negotiations must result in the submission of the Arab spirit to the Israeli character by imposing all sorts of political and security pressures on the Arab arena so that the Arab will have no choice but to say no to war and yes to all the morale-sapping stands required of him.

In view of this, we believe that the Islamists—who are aware of their nation's issues of freedom through their belief in one God and in freedom for all forces in the universe—are the ones confirming the movement of freedom through their jihad activities, their political belief, and all their actions that aim to restore vigor to the nation in one way or another.

[Ahmad] Moving on to the Lebanese file, I have noticed several internal political developments in Lebanese life since my arrival in Beirut, including the opening of the old Christian files. In light of your experience and your role in Beirut, do you believe that what is happening now is a sign that Lebanon's health has been restored following the reconciliation, or is it the start of a new stage in the internal struggles?

[Fadlallah] I believe that there is a point that we must stress, namely that the harsh or lenient Lebanese decisions made in the domestic arena, which are influenced by more than one foreign side, do not stem from a purely internal Lebanese reality. Even the issue of rebuilding the state, which is a popular demand made by all Lebanese people, came as a result of foreign decisions which had unleashed the war in Lebanon by exploiting the Lebanese contradictions inside the country. They were the ones that brought about peace when war stopped being of any use or benefit to this international party or that regional one. Therefore, there is a decision made through the al-Ta'if accord which is wholly American, though it is under an Arab umbrella and has Lebanese signatures. It was American-born but was implemented by the Arabs. The al-Ta'if accord includes the rebuilding of Lebanon in its calculations. The U.S. plan is this: to eliminate the French influence which is active to a great extent within the Maronite and Christian ranks and possibly within some Islamic ranks that are appendages to political Maronism.

The U.S. policy is to sweep away the French influence from its positions, even as some of the latter are opening their eyes to the new U.S. atmosphere. There is a French need for influence that finds an advanced position for itself in Christianity and specifically Maronism, through which it can implement its policy by exploiting sectarian emotions. Therefore, I believe that the plan is to rebuild the state in a way that will establish U.S. influence in Lebanon. The United States is planning Lebanon's future in a way that will make it part of the future regional order and therefore there will be a country that has the power to oppose any European, Islamic, or Arab influence.

This is the plan. It is not the signal of a new phase in sharp internal Lebanese instability that leads the country to war because we believe that the intra-Lebanese war is over because it is of no use any more to any international or regional party and is not locally possible because the Lebanese have exhausted all their energies in the war.

[Ahmad] Turning to political issues, the region, including Lebanon of course, is being groomed for the so-called Middle East market which, we believe, stands for finalizing greater Israel. The word "market" is misleading and does not stand for the truth. What is your assessment of that concept and the general schemes associated with it?

[Fadlallah] I cannot confirm the issue of greater Israel. First; judging by the nature of the political, economic, and social climate being prepared for the region, the next stage does not give Israel more than it is already taking from the Arab-Israeli conciliation. Second; monitoring America's actions, we see that it is trying to adjust the area to its wishes, so that nothing passes unless it goes through America. Even if Israel can afford to put some pressure on the U.S. Administration in the Arab-Israeli conflict, we know that it cannot exert such pressure when it comes to the American-Israeli economic conflict. In other words, the Zionist lobby cannot pressure the American administration into making concessions to Israel. What can happen is the facilitation of Israeli transactions in parallel with American ones.

America seeks a free hand in the oil-rich areas. If it is trying to preclude any European, Russian, Japanese, or Chinese role in oil-related matters, how can it make Israel a partner? Israel, for its part, is planning a partnership with Europe and America in that field. Therefore, I believe that the issue of a Greater Israel is a finished dream.

There is another matter, however. Raising the issue of the Middle East as a substitute for the Arab world derives from plans to establish Israel as a natural member of the region. Normally, Israel could not be part of a region made up of Arabs. But if that region is turned into a Middle East, Israel can be part of it. This is

particularly true when we realize that there is a future plan to divide the regional security system into sections, with Turkey and Israel in the forefront, giving Arabs a role inferior to that of Turkey and disproportionate to the size of Arabs at the international level. This is what makes us think that we have to undertake a careful study of the region's economic market—the water economy, the oil economy, and the agricultural and industrial economy—against the American-European dispute concerning the export of consumer or military goods to the Arab world.

Monitoring the future, we have to see economic matters in their strategic perspective; whereas security-wise, we have to view the future in light of the confrontation with the Islamic inclination or the difficult conflicts involving native or national movements that reality generates.

We also have to monitor the new plan America might work out by encircling the Islamic Republic of Iran through a Middle East steered by the American strategy that is open to other strategies in the region.

[Ahmad] Are we content with the role of bystander or do you have a specific vision of this confrontation?

[Fadlallah] We talk about monitoring because we are trying to analyze reality and future prospects. But in the meantime, we are not neutral regarding that reality. As Islamists, we seek to revive the Islamic inclination by all means possible. We have our own rational and diligent study that measures reality against objectives to distort that American-Israeli plan. As Islamists, we proceed on the basis of integration with pan-Arabists, that is if they are determined to free the Arab political, security, and economic aspects from the American fist and if they have not already sunk in the dreams America is trying to make them live by using words like moderation and so on.

I believe that we have to relate with nationalists, pan-Arabists, and even with the Marxists who adopt a creed different from ours. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] A final word by Your Eminence to your readers in Egypt.

[Fadlallah] As I speak about the great Islamic homeland in Egypt, I tell all our kinsfolk, brothers, and fellow citizens that they should preserve Egypt as a strength for Arabs, Muslims, and Africa and as a source of strength for anyone who seeks freedom and justice.

We believe that the Egyptian nation is one of the best and most honest, open and loving nations. We do not count on the regime—any regime—to stand against this intelligence game but believe that, with its Islamic awareness, Christian openness, and originality, the Egyptian nation will foil this intelligence game.

We want to say to the Egyptians—the regime and people—that the regime will not benefit from this kind of bloodshed, neither now nor in the future because the international ploy does not want this nation to be stable. God has urged us to argue our cases in an amicable way, to promote the cause of God with wisdom and friendly advice, to act with goodness to turn our enemies into friends, to be patient over our differences and problems to know how to reconcile our differences and solve our problems.

We are sad, very sad, about what is happening in Egypt and do not believe that the Islamists mean harm to Egypt or to its people. Perhaps some people differ with them over certain methods and concepts but we can only say that they are loyal to the Egyptian people and the Islamic cause. We remind the Egyptians of what Imam 'Ali said about the renegades and we do not want to talk about the Islamists as renegades or talk about the regime this way. We are not in the habit of characterizing people but we seek the idea: "Do not fight the renegades for their mistakes because anyone who seeks right and errs is not like one who seeks and does what is wrong."

If you claim that the Islamists are wrong—indeed, some of them use the wrong methods for rightful ends—try to initiate a broad and the best kind of dialogue to caution them about what is wrong if there is anything and in this case their Islamic origins will lead them to retreat from the wrong if they are convinced. Those who believe that the state's engagement in dialogue means a loss of prestige for the state are mistaken, because the state's prestige is commensurate with the protection it offers to its people and its persuading them to integrate with it.

I ask all our regimes: You have fought wars against Israel that destroyed your economy, security, and policy and are now talking about peace with the Jews who are the fiercest enemies of the believers but why don't you talk about peace with the Muslims who believe in God, His messenger, and the world hereafter? They might err in their interpretations and methods but they were not wrong in testifying that there is no god but God, that Muhammad is his messenger, that the Koran and the world hereafter are true, and that anyone who does not care for Muslims is not a Muslim.

Come to common agreement with the Muslims, come to common agreement with people of other religions, come to common terms with all the oppressed who seek freedom against all arrogant people.

Iranian Official Meets al-Hariri, Comments on Ties

NC0806130594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Jun 94

[News conference by Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, director general of Middle East and North African affairs in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, with unidentified correspondents after his meeting with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Beirut on 8 June—recorded]

[Text] [Khonsari] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Within the framework of my meetings with senior officials in this fraternal country

over the past two days, this morning I met with His Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. After conveying condolences to the martyrs of the recent massacre during the barbaric Zionist aggression against Lebanon, we discussed regional and international issues, and bilateral relations. We agreed on the need to expand and deepen bilateral relations and joint cooperation in various spheres.

Regarding developments and events in the region, especially the repeated attacks by the Zionist enemy on Lebanon, our views were completely identical. We agreed that the Zionist enemy cannot influence Lebanese policy or the resistance by the Lebanese sons through attacks, threats, and evil acts. The resistance is fully supported by the Lebanese Government. If the Israeli attacks and threats have any effect, it is only to strengthen the unity and cohesiveness of the Lebanese people and Lebanese Government in their steadfastness against the Zionist enemy. This was stated by His Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri who said: We support the resistance. Resistance is the Lebanese people's legitimate right and the government will support it.

[Correspondent] We are grateful that you have helped Lebanon. There are reports that there were Iranian victims among those killed in the Israeli raid on a Hizballah position in the Ba'labakk area. Are these reports true?

[Khonsari] This is not true at all. This is the first time that I have heard that.

[Correspondent] Is there any new information about the fate of the abducted Iranians?

[Khonsari] I have no knowledge of this. Of course, we expect the Lebanese Government to pursue the right course and follow up on the fate of these hostages, particularly as they were Iranian diplomats kidnapped on this land. We have no accurate knowledge of their fate. The entire Iranian people and Iranian Government, certainly the families of these brothers, are always waiting to hear positive news about the fate of these brothers and the necessary measures to free them.

[Correspondent] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani says that the abducted Iranians are in Israel?

[Khonsari] One possibility is that they are alive and prisoners of the Zionist enemy.

[Correspondent] Are there plans for you to conclude agreements on developing bilateral relations with the Lebanese Government?

[Khonsari] We, the Islamic Republic of Iran, are ready to have comprehensive cooperation in all the spheres that Lebanon desires.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Yemeni Minister Arrives, Expects Support

JN0906200794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] 'Abdallah Ghanim, minister of justice for the Yemen Arab Republic [name of country as heard], arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Justice Minister Dr. 'Abdallah Tulbah, a number of Justice Ministry officials, and the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus.

The guest minister made a statement to a correspondent from the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, in which he expressed his pleasure at visiting Damascus.

He said: During this visit, I will convey a message from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, on the conflict underway in Yemen. He added: We expect to receive support from Syria—this deep-rooted country—in the call for unity.

Al-Asad Meets With Lithuanian Envoy

JN0906201594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lithuanian Parliament Speaker Cheslovas Yurshenas at the People's Palace at 1830 today. People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah attended the session.

Mr. Yurshenas conveyed a message from Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas underscoring the importance of increased ties between the two countries. His excellency the president thanked the envoy and asked him to convey his greetings to the Lithuanian president.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the Middle East and the Baltic. His excellency the president laid out to him the efforts being made to bring about a just and comprehensive peace to the region and the obstacles placed by Israel in the path of that objective. His excellency the president also clarified Syria's sound position on the peace process predicated on UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

Mr. Yurshenas said his country wholly supports the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and the restitution of Syrian and other Arab territory.

Government Welcomes Christopher's Return Visit

JN1006064194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] Commenting on [U.S. Secretary of State] Christopher's expected return to the region within the framework of the U.S. Administration resuming its efforts to invigorate the Syrian-Israeli track, informed Syrian sources emphasize that since the Madrid conference—not to mention the Geneva summit, where Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton reached understanding and agreement on activating the process for comprehensive peace—Syria has welcomed every U.S. effort to invigorate the peace process.

The sources told Radio Monte Carlo that Israeli statements after Christopher left the region, particularly Rabin's statements that the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are frozen, mean that Israel does not welcome the U.S. secretary of state's return to the region, and that Israel, through its statements, appears to be dictating to the U.S. sponsor how to act and move in the peace process.

The sources held Israel responsible for the delay and the stagnation in the peace process, and said that during his recent visit to the region Christopher had communicated to Israel the Syrian concept of the peace process, after which he directly left Israel for Washington. This shows he sensed a negative response from Israel on the Syrian peace concepts, which are within the framework of the realization of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions.

India

Spokesman's Statement on Rao's Visit To Russia

BK0906151894 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1450 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Statement by unidentified spokesman on 8 June; place not given]

[Text] In response to a query on the focus of the prime minister's visit to the Russian Federation and India-Russian ties, the spokesman stated that the focus of the visit would be on lifting of the existing level of relationship to qualitatively higher levels and to new stages. The talks in Moscow would concentrate on the future in terms of bilateral cooperation regarding our attitudes towards international issues and what the two countries can do together in Asia and in the world. At the summit level the leaders will naturally not discuss minor matters of detail.

Elaborating further, he said that it was very clear even before the actual break up of the erstwhile Soviet Union that our relationship with Russia would be qualitatively different. One of the major tasks of our diplomatic efforts accordingly was to establish friendly and cooperative relations with the Russian Government. Since the emergence of the Russian Federation and our recognition that it was a successor state of the erstwhile USSR, bilateral ties were undergoing a process of consolidation and adjustment to the new realities. In this phase, right upto the visit of President Boris Yeltsin to New Delhi, various political and economic issues and parameters of trade and commerce were defined. The next logical phase is to raise the relationship to a qualitatively new level.

Efforts for Britons' Release; Abductors Condemned

BK0906145494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, efforts are on to secure safe release of militants near Pahalgam two days ago. Three other members of the trekking team have returned to Srinagar. A number of organizations have appealed to the militants to release the innocent trekkers.

Two Pakistan-trained militants were killed in Kupwara District in an encounter with the security force. Four militants were arrested and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1307 GMT on 9 Jun 94 in a similar report adds the following: "Kashmiri separatist groups Thursday demanded the immediate release of two British hikers kidnapped by Moslem militants while trekking in the Himalayas.

["The Indian authorities, meanwhile, rejected the demand by the Moslem rebels who snatched the two British nationals that three of their imprisoned leaders be freed in exchange for the hostages.

["David Mackie, 36, a video producer from London, and Kim Housego, 16, the son of the former Financial Times correspondent in New Delhi, were abducted in the Himalayan foothills southeast of here by three heavily-armed men claiming to be members of the militant outfit Harkat-ul-Ansar or Movement of Friends.

["In a note left for Kim Housego's father, David, the kidnappers demanded the release of three of the group's leaders from Indian jails and warned foreign tourists to stay out of Kashmir.

["'Their release is not possible,' a government official told AFP.

["The latest kidnapping was forcefully condemned by the two most powerful Kashmiri Moslem militant groups, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) which seeks independence for Kashmir and the pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen.

["'Such moves help India at the international level,' the JKLF said in an unconditional appeal for the release of the Britons.

["The Hizbul Mujahideen, or Party of Moslem Warriors, called on the kidnappers to immediately release the Britons in the interests of the Kashmiri separatist movement.

["'We have offered our help to identify these people,' said Majid Jehangir, the second-ranking leader of the Hizbul Mujahideen, which helped rescue a Portuguese engineer who was kidnapped by a group opposed to a power project in the state two years ago.

["Both the JKLF and the Hizbul Mujahideen raised the possibility that the kidnapping may be the handiwork of Indian agents seeking to discredit the secessionist movement.

["In a statement released here Wednesday, the Harkat-ul-Ansar claimed responsibility for the kidnapping and said it was done to attract world attention to human rights abuses by Indian troops battling the insurgency.

["The Jamiat-ul-Islami, the Hizb's political wing, denounced the abduction by the group and appealed for the release of the two 'guests' without 'delay or harm.'

["'It is unwise to commit such a human rights violation and then suggest that it would help focus world attention on gross rights abuses by Indian security forces,' said Jamiat leader Ghulam Mohammed Bhat."]

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference

LD0906084594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1727 GMT 7 Jun 94

[News conference by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani with domestic and foreign media correspondents in Tehran on 7 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I will not give an introduction. I shall wait for questions from reporters so that we make more use of the time. You can start.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English with superimposed Persian translation] I have two questions. My first question is, how do you see the international oil market? My second question is, has there been any improvement in the relations between Iran and the United States after the visit of the American journalists?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] About oil, it seems the rest of the year will be the same, or a little better. About the second question. I do not think the presence of editors of American press in Iran would have any fundamental effect on relations. It could only clarify more the truths for the Americans. We shall have to see what conclusions they draw from those truths.

[GUARDIAN correspondent, name indistinct] Two questions. First of all, does the Iranian Government believe Britain's policy on former Yugoslavia precludes the creation of a strong country by Bosnian Muslims?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In that respect there is evidence the British Government does not cooperate properly in repelling Serbian acts of aggression. Of course, final judgement should be based on further investigation, or one should wait for the future.

[GUARDIAN correspondent] Second question. What is the president's reaction to the remarks by Mr. Zhirinovskiy in the Soviet Union who said we have to go south, which includes Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We consider those remarks as those of an irresponsible person. We attach no value to them for us to show an official reaction.

[KUNA correspondent, name indistinct, in Arabic] Hello. During your meeting with the students and teaching staff of Amir Kabir industrial university last week, you accused the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of creating trouble and annoyance to some of its neighbors, including Iraq. Your Excellency, you know very well that the Iraqi regime was, and still is, the source of problems in the region. It started with its aggression against Iran in 1980, with the ambition of seizing the oil wells of Khuzestan and under the pretext of defending the eastern gate of the Arab nation. It then used chemical weapons against the Kurds in north Iraq, in Halabja. Then followed the invasion of Kuwait and the various immoral and inhuman crimes it committed there. It also committed various crimes against the Iraqi people in the north and in the south and has continued, up to the present, to use tanks, guns, and aircraft against its people. Would it be more beneficial, Your Excellency, if, instead of accusing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of creating problems for Iraq, you had offered advice to the tyrant of Baghdad to abide by the international resolutions pertaining to the recognition of the sovereignty of the state of Kuwait, its independence, and its international borders.

This is the first question. If you allow me I have another question. It was also during your meeting with the students and lecturers of Amir Kabir university when you said satellite technology would not constitute an obstacle in the way of our exporting the Islamic revolution. Your Excellency, such utterances about the export of the revolution were made by some Iranian officials at the beginning of the revolution and caused a cooling in the relations and a schism between Iran and its neighbors in the region. Your Excellency, why is there this insistence on making such slogans concerning the export of the revolution? It had been better if you had concentrated your efforts on rebuilding Iran and overcoming its economic and social problems. Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] About his first question, we have already—both verbally and practically—condemned Iraq's acts of aggression, and we still do. Iraq—and particularly the Ba'thist party of Iraq—has acted very badly towards its own people, us, and the people of Kuwait. About the question on Saudi Arabia, we have said Saudi Arabia is not doing the right thing to save the people of Iraq, and they are not coordinating their effort to resolve the Iraqi issue.

About his second question, it was not a question of exporting the revolution, as they are constantly accusing us. The question was, that with the existence of foreign satellites in Iran, how do we raise the issue of exporting the ideology of the Islamic revolution? I have said that we put forward our ideology whether there are any satellites or not. That is what we have always said. We have never said we would take our revolution to other countries. We say we put forward our ideas, and if anybody is interested, they could accept those ideas. Followers of any ideology would do the same. It is not interfering in the affairs of others. In practice we are now using all our facilities to build our own country; we do not use them abroad.

[Ghoroghi, Iranian TV correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr. President, regarding the discovery of a bugging device at the Iranian Embassy in London, could you say how Tehran-London relations will be from now on? Furthermore, the information minster has announced that the greater dimensions of the affair will be revealed later. Could you expand on this issue if possible?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Well, the information minister will later announce in an appropriate time what he intends to say. However, the consequence of the British violation has created insecurity in relations and an atmosphere of mistrust, which is negative. We do not wish to see the creation of insecurity and mistrust among countries that have representation in other countries.

[Ghorighi] With regards to foreign currency fluctuations, how do you see the implementation of the policy on the single currency rate, which started last year? And from a government point of view, what is the price for a regulated foreign currency and when will it be successful?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The new policies we announced as of last week are a continuation of the single-currency-rate policies. With these policies we intend to regulate demand and supply in the market to allow the actual realization of a single rate. We predict that in the coming months and with regulation of demand and supply in the market, the real price of currency will become clear. But it is not possible to predict precisely. I think the price will be less than what it is in the free market now.

[Takashi] Hello, Mr. Hashemi. I am Japanese correspondent Takashi. I have one question. Three years from now your excellency's term of presidency will come to an end, and under the Constitution you will have to step aside. Do you wish to continue, or make certain changes in the Constitution to enable you to continue your presidency?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Those quiet Japanese make such a hue and cry. It is interesting. [Hashemi-Rafsanjani laughs] We would rather the Constitution were not changed and implement it as is. If I carry out my duties well during these eight years, I think there would be no need for my re-election and matters would, God willing, progress.

[Amiriyan, IRNA correspondent] I have two questions for your Excellency. The first is, what is the situation regarding privatization and the private sector in the country, and how far have things progressed regarding attracting foreign investments? My second question is, are Dr. Velayati's visit to Egypt and his talks with his Egyptian counterpart signs of change in Iran's Middle East policy?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] [passage omitted] About foreign investment, it is permissible under our laws, and we are agreeable. If some people wish to invest in Iran within the bounds of our laws and constitution, they would be accepted.

About Dr. Velayati's trip to Egypt, it is not a change in our Middle East policy. First, travelling to Egypt has never been forbidden. Our ministers have gone there in the past; Egyptian ministers have also come to Iran. Those comings and goings will continue. Second, the nonaligned movement session was there. Irrespective of relations with the host country, it was natural for Iran, which is an effective country in the nonaligned movement, to have an active participation in it. When the United Nations has a session in America, we take part. As you have seen, that happens every year.

[Notalli Nowari, LIBERATION correspondent, in English] Mr. President, I have two questions. My first question concerns satellite television, which you mentioned earlier. I wonder whether his excellency has watched any satellite television programs? Do you think the programs on satellite television are a threat to the youths in this country and should be banned?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is a new issue in our country and has created various discussions by people with various tastes. As you are aware, a draft bill has been put forward in the islamic majles. naturally, the deputies have the opportunity to discuss it there, and you too will hear the discussions through the majles. Our regime's view will be the majles's outcome.

[Nowari] What is your position?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not want to express any view before that discussion becomes ripe, because our prejudgement might influence the views. We expect the views to be expressed freely and the issue to become clear to the people. We will make a decision at the appropriate time.

[Nowari] I am sorry to insist, but you did not answer my question of whether you yourself had watched satellite TV?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not have that much time to sit and watch television. I might watch sometimes if an opportunity presents itself and there is something interesting.

[Heydarzadah, ETTELA'AT correspondent] Please, could you say whether Iranian diplomacy in Central Asia has so far been successful despite American measures and the fact that they threw wrench in the work? How do you assess the political-economic prospect of these relations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Please repeat.

[Heydarzadah] [repeats question]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We think the grounds for cooperation between Iran and Central Asian countries are so vast, natural, and essential that no one can prevent them. It is possible their dimensions may be reduced occasionally as a result of foreign pressure. But, Iran and Central Asia naturally complete [mokamal] each other. They need many things we have in Iran, and we need many things they have. The proper routes that connect Central Asia to the rest of the world pass through Iran. We are in the process of connecting the railway system. We have joined land routes. Customs offices have been set up. Airline routes and sea routes and communication systems have been set up. No one can change these facts.

[Muhammad Baqir Shar'i, correspondent of Beirut's AL-DIYAR, in Arabic] I am very interested in Iran and the Islamic revolution, and I come from a country which is very interested in your country and nation. My question is that, as it was you who proposed Khamene'i to the post of the leadership of Islamic revolution, is the relation between the two of you still of a special nature?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not think that any one who knows us can have any doubt about the fact that my relation with the eminent leader is one of the most cordial and sincere relations which can exist between two human beings. We have been together in the fronts of struggle for more than 40 years now. Since the revolution, too, we have always been together.

Even before the demise of the Imam, the arrogant media used to talk of my differences with Khamene'i. At that time, I said during a Friday prayer sermon: We are so close in our tastes and ideas that I am prepared to sign a blank piece of paper and give it to him to write down what would in fact be my opinions and thoughts. Apparently, he had the same idea too, although I cannot remember the details. We really are like that, and so far we have not had any unresolvable differences. We sometimes conduct negotiations [mozakereh] and discussions [mobaheseh]. But we always agree with one another. I consider him at present to be the most suitable person for the post of leadership of the country, and he, too, has the same kind of trust in me in my present capacity. I think that some kind of jealousy exists about our friendship, and that is why the foreign media sometimes react the way they do. All this used to happen when he was not the leader yet, let alone now that he is the leader.

In our Constitution, the relationship between the president and the leader is such that disputes are totally meaningless. The method of work is such that a number of decisions and general policies are in the hands of the leader, and every one should obey him. On the other hand, executive affairs are with the president, who receives the leader's approval and blessing.

There is, thus, no need to worry. The future is going to be even better than the past.

[Baqir Shar'i] Some of the economic difficulties the country is passing through are the making of foreign hands. There are people who say that one of the presidential candidates had received a larger number of votes than expected—is this something to do with the economic difficulties?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The extent to which Iran's economic problems are discussed, in reality, it is not as such. Our facts and figures are so obvious for all that judgment is easy. In this five-year plan, we had an average growth of eight percent, which is one of the better economic growth rates in the world. Not many countries could have such a growth rate in five subsequent years. We have fully reduced the shortcomings in our budget. We have well strengthened our infrastructure. We have passed well through the readjustment period, which is a difficult period and normally has social consequences. The largest phase of it has passed. If you visit our bazaars now, you will see how full they are. Our products in all fields—agriculture, industrial, animal husbandry, fishery, etc.—meet the country's demand to a large extent. We have reduced greatly our need for foreign currency with our work on the infrastructure. And in the second plan, our need for foreign currency might be approximately half that of the first plan. You have seen how this sort of readjustment has been implemented in other countries, such as Russia and some others, and how this is being implemented in Iran. We do not have a problem such as the one that has been talked about. Off course there are shortcomings in our country, as in many other countries, which is quite natural and is being removed. Naturally, the shortcomings and the issues which are the result of a period of readjustment might increase or decrease the number of some votes. This is not a very unnatural matter.

We have had vote fluctuations in previous general elections as well. The leader of the revolution was elected for two terms. At that time, the number of votes cast for him in his second term was reduced, similar as in my second term. This is not an issue that we want to give it a serious thought. You can see that the number of votes in our country are much higher than in other countries that hold free elections. We won around two thirds of the votes in our free elections, and that is in this situation of transformation from the difficult policy of readjustment and reconstruction.

A president who carries out the policy of readjustment, who carries out the process of reconstruction after the war and the earthquake, as well as carrying out many infrastructure tasks at the cost of reducing expenditures, and still gains two-thirds of the people's votes in a free elections, should be considered very successful, in my opinion—not with difficulties .

[Unidentified Lebanese correspondent, in Arabic] Your Eminence, do you believe that the countdown has started against the Islamic movement in Lebanon? This can be observed in the wake of the abduction of Al-Dayrani, the struggling member of the Believers Resistance, and also the recent massacre in Ba'lbak. Do you also believe that there is a regional Arabic or local Lebanese collusion to demonstrate that the global and regional powers intend to liquidate the Islamic movement in Lebanon and to eliminate resistance against Israel?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There is no doubt that the power centers of the world would very much like to smash the Islamic movement in Lebanon. This is definitely true, even if the recent event had not taken place. We have no doubt that major powers of the world—particularly the West—are against the Islamic movement in Lebanon. Of course, the recent developments were further indications of the past signs.

[HAMSHAHRI correspondent Ebrahimi] Mr. President, during your speech at the press festival, you pretended as

though the government's behavior toward the press has been correct. Whereas the press has responded, to some extent, vindictively. In your opinion, what are the qualities of an ideal press in the Islamic Republic?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not wish to specify what a good press should be. It is, however, clear from my speech at the press festival that we expect the press to study issues more deeply. It is unprofessional for the press to resort to slogans and demagogy to become popular. The press should help to clarify facts. They should approach issues analytically, instead of provoking blind sentiments.

Another point raised was that the press should understand the regime's general policies and deal with issues within that framework. I gave an example of the British press and their response vis-a-vis the recent problem with Iran. In connection with a question, the British press responded in a particular manner and alleged that an Iranian official had forged a document. I said that it seems the British press, as a whole, adopts coordination toward certain issues supported by their government.

[Ebrahimi] My next question is about the economic readjustment policy. Five years after the first five-year economic development plan, I would like to know your views on the positive points and the problems of adopting the economic readjustment policy?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In my view, all the achievements of the first plan and of the economic readjustment were positive. The issue raised is the problem of some price rises. This was one of the objectives. We have to raise prices to their real level if we wish to achieve a healthy economy. Subsidized prices will never allow an economy to take shape.

Perhaps we can say, as a point of weakness, that some merchants, producers, or importers took advantage of this free atmosphere created by the readjustment policy to overcharge the people. This was bearable at the time when there were shortages of commodities; however, this cannot be tolerated now. We have, therefore, planned to stop the practice of overcharging. We, however, believe that it is in the country's interest to reach real prices. A large portion of the resources used to subsidize some commodities unfairly in the past is now transferred to reconstruction.

Great tasks were fulfilled in the country. Power stations, highways, ports, and large steel and aluminum factories were built. Telecommunication were expanded. A number of universities were set up. Deprived areas were developed. Irrigation projects, including sprinkler irrigation systems, were implemented. Dams were built, and many other large projects were completed. None of these would have been possible without the economic readjustment policy. [passage omitted]

[Indian correspondent (?Sukimra Golgani), WEEKLY NEWS] I have two questions. What is your opinion about the current situation in the world economy?

My second question concerns the countries of Southeast Asia and the present state of economic cooperation in that area. I must point out that there is very good economic cooperation in Southeast Asia, but in our part of the Asian continent, the field of economic cooperation has not developed as such. In view of your talks last year with the Indian prime minister about economic cooperation, I would like to ask what tangible steps have been taken and what more can be done toward this important task in order to enable us to expand our economic cooperation like the Southeast Asian countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is correct to say that cooperation between other Asian countries is not as good as cooperation between east and Southeast Asian states. We have two fronts in our own area. One is the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], and we have extensive plans for cooperation within that organization. The other front, which we must pay more attention to, is cooperation with countries such as India, Malaysia, and the Indian subcontinent countries in general.

Our negotiations with Mr. Rao have paved the ground for this process; however, one of the obstacles we face is the present situation in Indo-Pakistan relations. We must try to improve the ties between these two countries. In our negotiations, we also talked about the transfer of Iranian natural gas to Pakistan and India. This can only materialize if these two states enjoy cordial relations. We think that, in view of the potential enjoyed by India, Iran, and other countries such as Malaysia, we can have a very large economic unit here. Our progress has not been ideal, but we are satisfied with the agreements reached so far. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT correspondent] If government decisions are based on plans and expert advice, why are certain decisions regularly revised? Does that not shift resources from construction and manufacturing areas to bogus tasks and middlemen?

For example, the multitudinous decisions of the Foreign Exchange Committee have caused severe fluctuations in exchange rates so that the dollar rose by 50 tomans in one day. That resulted in investors becoming foreign exchange middlemen instead of investing their foreign currency in manufacturing and in their having an overnight windfall of 50 million tomans with a 1 million toman investment. Are the revisions of these decisions to continue?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In transition from one state to another, those decisions are sometimes necessary. All those problems are not caused by changing decisions. There are numerous factors in the country today. Attempts by middlemen, false propaganda, and an adverse atmosphere created by certain media have had a combined effect. In addition, the amount of foreign currency bought and sold on the market cannot be compared with the total foreign currency that we spend in the country. For example, 2 million dollars is not a

large sum compared to 30 or 40 million dollars a day, which is our foreign currency expenditure in the country.

The exchange rate fluctuation is partly due to psychological conditions. Each of those decisions have their own reasons. During transition, decisions are sometimes changed; of course, these are not fundamental decisions.

[RESALAT correspondent] My next question is that, although you say that Iran is owed more than it owes, why have we signed debt rescheduling agreements with a number of countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Their debts to us are not such that they can be substituted for our debts to them. For instance, Germany owes us with regard to the Bushehr nuclear power station, where we spent around 7 billion German marks, but the Germans did not finish the work. They owe us that sum plus the due compensation. This case has now gone to the court, which is to issue a verdict. Once this verdict is issued, then we can consider that sum as money owed to us. Or, for instance, there is the large investment we made at the Krupp. This, however, is investment and cannot be considered as a debt to us. Only if we sell our shares there can we accept the proceeds as payment of our debts.

Yet one more example is America's hefty debt to us. This is money that the Americans are in no hurry to return to us. We say that the Islamic Republic of Iran is owed a lot of money abroad. However, there are certain conditions necessary for receiving these payments, and these conditions have not come about as yet.

France, too, used to owe us a lot of money. Part of these debts have been paid to us, while as payment for the rest of it, we have been made a partner in a huge uranium enriching plant. Of course, we can sell our shares and have the money instead.

The answer, therefore, is that the situation is not such that Iran has no money and has lots of debts. We indeed have large investments, and when these are exchanged, the country's creditworthiness will not be marred.

[Italian correspondent Andre Corvatorrio, CORRIERE DELLA SERA] In some European countries, investigations are going on concerning the assassination of Iranian dissidents living abroad. In some cases, it has been shown that there is some connection between these cases and Iranian citizens and officials. How do you evaluate these investigations, and how does Iran react to them?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What the esteemed reporter said was a mere claim, since the investigations thus far have not been able to ascertain that Iranian officials have been involved in the incidents. There are court cases ongoing in France and Germany right now. In general, however, we say that all of these reports are false propaganda. We do not know the causes of these incidents, although our guess is that these are due to factional infighting abroad. It really is not the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to deal with the opposition in this way. Despite all the efforts by those opposing us, they still have not been able to prove one single case. I would like to ask you to mention a proven case, if you know of one, so that I can explain here.

[Corvatorrio] There was a case published by TIME magazine, as well as the case of Bakhtiyar. My question is: What is Iran's position toward the trial of these people abroad?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We comply with international laws. Where we have an extradition agreement, these people should be extradited to Iran. Where we do not have such an agreement, we have no opposition to a fair trial for these individuals. Of course, we expect that foreign governments should refrain from false propaganda and improper methods of investigations. If they seek to misuse their powers in the course of these trials, then we naturally oppose them. However, if we witness fairness, then we can accept the court verdict. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Farid Hashemi] This question was also asked by a foreign reporter. However, another aspect is in question. Considering the record of many western—particularly American—media in distorting news and facts about Iran, I wanted to ask why was it necessary to invite editors of American newspapers to Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The Islamic Guidance Ministry apparently invited them. We think it is not a negative step; it is a positive action. We believe newspapers in the world have certain facilities at their disposal and can inform the people to a great extent.

You know that there is a great deal of false propaganda against Iran in America. That event was like the news conference that is happening now. Well, we should not think that every person who holds a pen in America is an agent of arrogance. There are free and liberal people who write the truth in many parts of the world.

So far, we have not decided to cease trading with America. On the whole we do not think that severance would be right. You are probably aware that much of our military equipment from the past is American. Many of our factories and much of our expensive machinery is American, and so forth. They require spare parts. They require repairs. They should be looked after. If you say we should throw away those great national assets, that would not be logically right. They cannot be replaced either.

For example, Iran Air's planes are all Boeing, which belongs to the Americans. Their repairs sometimes need to be carried out in places that are affiliated with the Americans, or at least it is necessary to obtain their permission. As a reporter are you suggesting that we should sever all that?

[Hashemi] Excuse me, that was not the question.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I am saying that trade on a wide scale cannot be severed if there are certain problems. It is

not right for you to agitate feelings like this. The Americans also need trade with Iran. We are selling large quantities of oil to America. Of course, it does not go to America directly. We sell it elsewhere, and the Americans take it from there. Are you saying we should not sell that oil?

[Hashemi] I was speaking symbolically, about America as a symbol.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In my opinion, that symbolism is somewhat common, of the garden variety.

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Kozyrev] Mr. President, I have three questions related to your foreign policy. What is your opinion on the second round of talks to be held in Tehran soon between the Tajikistan Government and their opposition groups?

The next question is about the Iranian proposal two months ago to mediate in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Does Iran intend to mediate, or is it going to remain an observer until others start mediating?

My final question is about relations between Iran and Egypt. Iran maintains diplomatic ties with such Islamic countries as Turkey and Kazakhstan, and with other countries that have established relations with Israel. Why should Iran maintain ties with those other countries—for instance, with Turkey, which enjoys close ties with Israel—while it has broken ties with Egypt?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] About the Tajikistan talks, we are doing our best. In our opinion the war is not in the interest of the people or the government of Tajikistan. A free environment should be created there through democracy, and anyone who wins elections can run the country. We are striving to implement this policy.

About Karabakh, we consider Azerbaijan to be the aggrieved party, and we are striving to end this conflict. Our efforts have not succeeded thus far, but we have not given up in despondency. We are prepared to mediate whenever we feel that the war can be terminated. We believe it will be in both Armenia's and Azerbaijan's interests, as well as in the interest of the Karabakh people, to end this war and to resolve the dispute through political means. We once became very active, but it became clear that the ground was not ripe yet. We currently plan to prepare the ground to help again.

About Egypt, our significant dispute with Egypt began after Camp David. We believe the Camp David accords led to a division between the Arabs and other Muslims. Israel exploited this issue immensely, and the Muslims and Arabs lost heavily. The Palestinians incurred massive losses. We severed our ties with Egypt for this reason. They have not abandoned the path that they adopted during Sadat's presidency. This is why our relations with Egypt are cool; otherwise, we regard Egypt as a great Islamic country, and we would like to work with them when circumstances permit. We hope they will pay attention to our remarks.

[JOMHURI-E ESLAMI correspondent Pur-Eskandar] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have heard that in the process of merging the three ministries involved with industries, there is talk of selling to the private sector the steel and other nationalized industries, as well as the organization for promotion of industries. You have stressed during the course of this conference that all these processes will take place in accordance with the Constitution. My question, however, is whether or not it will be the case that the ministries concerned will be weakened as a result of the sale of important industries to the private sector?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course, this merger has been put forward by the Majles and not by the government. What the Majles has voted for is the merger of the two Ministries of Industries and of Heavy Industries. Some people talk of the merger of the third ministry, but we hope that this does not take place.

As far as the sale of the steel and other mother industries are concerned, we do not agree with such a move, and we have no plan to do such a thing. Apparently, the Majles will not take this step either. It seems that a proposal had been put forward in a certain Majles committee.

[Pur-Eskandar] [passage indistinct]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Well, this has merely to do with individuals, and one should not attribute it to the Majles or to the government.

[Pur-Eskandar] But the collection of these individuals may begin a process....

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani, interrupting] This will probably be contrary to the Constitution. If it proves to be so, then the Guardian Council will reject it. This is supposing that such a move receives the approval of the Majles, an approval that I consider to be very remote. The Majles, of course, is free and independent, and the deputies have a free vote. If they vote in favor of such a move—and if the Guardian Council does not reject the bill—then this will become a law and will have to be implemented. However, I do not think that such an outcome is likely.

[Pur-Eskandar] My second question concerns the recent remarks by the leader of the revolution, when he stated that we should not expect any help from the Satanic powers and should instead implement divine punishments [hodud]—even though the Satanic powers accuse us of violating human rights. As the head of the executive power, what means would you deploy to confront the plots of global arrogance?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Sometimes the issue has to do with propaganda. In this case, it is clear that they have more propaganda means at their disposal than we do. We should also convey our ideas to the world as much as possible. Compared with them, we really have much more to say about these issues since the real violation of human rights, in its real sense, is being carried out every day by those who point an accusing finger at us.

The events in Bosnia-Herzegovina today are a test case that can reveal their intentions. Alternatively, one can look at the incidents in Palestine and Lebanon during recent days. The Americans are even preventing the UN Security Council from giving a hearing to Lebanon's complaint. Why should it be that a government that has the right of veto in the Security Council chooses to prevent the complaint of an independent government to be put forward? It is therefore quite clear that they are not honest.

If the issue has to do with propaganda, then you media people should perform your duties. However, if we are talking about what is actually taking place in reality, then we claim that the Islamic Republic of Iran observes human rights more strictly than any other country within the framework of Islamic tenets and our Constitution. We are prepared to state and argue this anywhere in the world.

[Pur-Eskandar] I thank you for your reply to the people and to the readers of JOMHURI-E ESLAMI.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Thank you.

[INDEPENDENT correspondent Charles Richards] I have two questions. Does the Islamic Republic of Iran share the aims of the Marxist IRA and seek the creation of a united Ireland? The second question: Is Mr. Arat, the Israeli pilot, in Iran? Whether he is in Iran or not, what is Iran prepared to do to help secure his release?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Both issues, in our view, are part of the fabricated propaganda against the Islamic Republic. About the IRA, we have said before and have denied that there is a connection between it and the Islamic Republic authorities. It is a matter concerning Britain and the Irish. I think, due to their weakness in protecting themselves in Britain, they needed to say that their opposition is receiving help from abroad—to justify their weakness somehow. There was absolutely no truth in it.

About the Israeli pilot, we think probably they have raised the issue as a preemptive measure because the Israelis are accused of the kidnapping of Iranians in Lebanon some years ago. Whenever anybody has said this to us, we have told them to bring any document or evidence that states that any part of this matter is connected to Iran, and we would start our investigation from that point. They have not given us any evidence yet. Everyday they go to a government that is friendly with us and raise the issue to cover up the issue of the four Iranians who were innocently abducted in Lebanon and disappeared. No reporter ever comes here to ask who is responsible, who should answer.

Here is a pilot who has gone and bombed a place, and his plane has crashed. Whatever his fate—and we see that they ask about him—no one asks about our missing persons. I do not know why the feelings of you westerners are one-sided. What was the next question?

[Richards] Do you deny that the Israeli pilot is in this country?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Certainly. He is not here. It is a fabrication by the Israelis, as I said, to cover up the fate of the four Iranians. You ask the Israelis about the fate of the four missing Iranians.

[ABRAR correspondent Khalili] Mr. President, there have been questions regarding the British issue, but they have not been answered. The anti-Iranian propaganda in the West—and particularly in Britain, with accusations of terrorism—are intended to put the Islamic Republic on the defensive. Here, however, we see no serious attempt by the government. It seems that the new wave of accusations is an attempt to prepare the grounds for greater pressure at the Naples meeting to compensate for the failure of the Tokyo meeting. Britain failed to secure European cooperation in pressuring Iran at that meeting.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not refute your statement that our propaganda is not as strong as theirs.

[Khalili] My reference is to government action. I think the government has no serious action here.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] They have made accusations, and our response is the same. When there are active measures, our reaction will also be active measures. What, in your opinion, could be an active measure against such propaganda?

[Khalili] Well, London has recently violated diplomatic and conventional norms, including the placing of a microphone at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In such cases, the westerners themselves sometimes go as far as severing relations. Has the government thought about this? This is my question.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not see the need to take the initiative in severing relations. Relations were severed once. Both countries understood that they have certain cooperation. They need us for some things; we need them for others. Well, things come together in many places. Severing of relations will not change anything. In principle, we do not particularly benefit from a policy of severing relations, except in particular cases and for exceptional reasons—as in the case of Egypt.

I think the existing weak relations must exist for ordinary dialogue. We have many students in Britain. If we bring them all back it would cause damage. If they want to stay, someone has to look after their affairs. There are many Iranians there. There are, naturally, ordinary economic relations and the like. We have to see our interest in its totality. Yes, of course, we have to reciprocate their actions in kind. Your view is that there should be an offensive policy instead of a defensive one at times.

[Khalili] A policy of reciprocation in kind, as you said.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There is reciprocation in kind. At no place have we abandoned reciprocation in kind. Even in some places, as they say in war, offense is the best

defense. That is correct. In political affairs too, we must go on the offensive at times.

[Khalili] My second question is regarding the policy of economic adjustment. Does the government have a policy of supporting the salaried classes, beside maintaining some of the subsidies? Your excellency recently said that management of life for those on a fixed income has become somewhat difficult.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is indeed the case. I accept that wages should rise according to price increases. We raised wages at one stage. This year they will naturally increase according to employment laws. We should plan to compensate for the wages, however, if there is a backlog. We have done so with the workers.

[Khalili] It has not been implemented for government employees.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It has been done for workers. We have added the 22 percent inflation to wages. I think we should do something for the employees, and we are preparing this.

[AFP correspondent Millot, in English] Mr. President I have two questions. The United States have become again the first trade partner of Iran. How long do you think Iran will be able to delay political normalization of its links?

[Millot] The second question is: Foreign minister, Dr. Velayati is to go to Baghdad soon. How do you see the prospects of this trip and what is the main condition for an improvement in relations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding America where the reporter said we are economic partners: I have said that we never stopped our economic relations with America. We have weakened them. We won't buy from America if we find goods from other places. We give priority to the non-American goods. America does the same with us. Regarding political relations: We really don't trust America to have good intentions. It opposed our movement and bothered us prior to the revolution. Since the revolution, it has always been the enemy of the revolution. You continue to see the examples which we can present. They claim to have an interest in talks to resolve the issues. But since we don't see good intentions in America, we don't think it wise to start negotiations. Because probably there are wrong intentions in these proposals. We have told them: If you have good intentions you should actually prove this in at least one case, for instance with our claims, we said. For the past 15-16 years, we have had large amounts of money and valuable goods blocked in America. There are no conditions. The money is in a certain account there. America can, as a sign of good faith release our money. This would be a sign of good faith if they are serious. When the issue of hostages in Lebanon came up, the mediators... [pauses] the UN general secretary who was a mediator told us that if we helped with the release of Western hostages in Lebanon the U.S. reaction would be to release your assets. Well we did. We helped and the Western hostages, including the Americans in Lebanon, were freed. But we witnessed that the Americans failed to carry out the promise of the UN general secretary, the most senior figure who had made promises to us. Is this not an indication of enmity? This is sufficient reason for us to mistrust them. From our point of view, the Americans should first of all actually prove their good intentions. We are yet to see this. [passage omitted]

The visit by Dr. Velayati to Iraq is aimed at improvement of ties. Certain provisions of the resolution, which we have both agreed on have not yet been implemented. We still have problems to do with the issue of PoWs, the existing mines planted on the borders, the dredging of the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab], and a number of other issues. He is going to negotiate, and if the suitable ground is prepared and all solutions are acceptable to both sides, then we can hope for progress.

[TEHRAN TIMES correspondent Sajjadi] My question concerns the future prospects for Iran-Syria ties. In view of the fact that one of our original incentives to expand our ties with Syria was that country's position in the front line of struggle against the Zionist regime, and considering the current round of negotiations between Syria and the Zionist regime about the issue of the Golan Heights, what is the future prospect for our ties with the Syrian Government, should the said negotiations produce an agreement?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have a lot of trust in the Syrian Government, and we are not worried that the Syrians may sacrifice their interests or the interests of the Palestinians. For this reason, we are optimistic about our ties with Syria. Hafiz al-Asad is a strong and powerful man, with a great sense of responsibility.

[Sajjadi] My next question concerns the internal strife in Afghanistan. It is said that the United Nations has a new plan about bringing Najibollah back to power and topple the forces currently on the scene in that country. What is the position of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward this plan, and in general toward the internal strife in Afghanistan?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] These are rumors. I consider it as very remote that the United Nations should think that it is possible to bring back someone whom the people have overthrown with Jihad and armed struggle, especially as the people are still in possession of weapons. Of course, the Afghan forces are not in harmony with one another. But although they argue and bicker, they would still resist against such a move.

[Sajjadi] Does the Islamic Republic of Iran have any plan to lend more effective support to the Afghan situation?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Right now we have a delegation in Afghanistan trying to resolve the ongoing disputes. However, the task ahead is very arduous.

[Unidentified ANATOLIA correspondent, in English] Mr. President, I come from a Muslim country. I have lived in Iran for the past two years. In my country, the same as other countries, there are some problems. I have heard that it is said in Iran that Islam and its instructions are the only solution to all problems. But during the past two years of living in Iran, I have seen that Iran is suffering from the same problems that exist in other countries. The examples are: A very high inflation rate, foreign debt, and the fact that Iran's income ranks it somewhere between the rich and poor countries. Faced with all these, can we say that Islamic instructions are the best solution to Islamic countries' problems?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] When we say we are Muslims, it does not mean all our problems will be solved. We think we can solve our problems within Islam's framework, but it takes time. We must solve our problems gradually. As you can see in Iran today, conditions are better than the neighboring countries that are not committed to Islam. We still do not believe that Islam has been fully implemented in Iran. We must implement it gradually. The series of problems you mentioned, including the economic difficulties, can be solved in the long-term by relying upon foundations of the Islamic instructions. [passage omitted]

[SALAM correspondent Nuri-Shemirani] Mr. President, the price of goods—according to policies for regulating the economy—are set on the basis of supply and demand and the performance of the market. Do not the new pricing policies mean a diversion from the past policies and do they not confuse producers? Also do they not create problems for the production security and economic security that you had in mind?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I believe not. You see regulation does not mean that we do not set prices. If you refer to your own archives, you would be able to find out that during the first years that we opened up to trade we mentioned, at that time, that when there is a shortage of goods then price controls will cause everything to go underground and will create hoarding such as the black market and multiple prices. But under the conditions when goods are in the market in a normal way then it is the time for setting prices. Even if you go to the countries whose economies are the most free in the world you still see price controls. When you go to any store, in any country, you can see that there are price tags on their goods. We do not intend to impose unrealistic prices on goods. There are a series of goods that are monopoly goods. We set the price of those monopoly goods, which are chiefly controlled by the government and we have no problem with them. For example, lump sugar, sugar, tea, steel and so on. [passage omitted]

We believe that this does not contradict our regulating policies. Perhaps from the point of view that we do not allow any overcharging to take place, the customer being misled and unknowingly buying some product for many times its price, that will stop such things taking place.

[Nuri-Shemirani] My second question is, up to a point, similar to that of previous questions asked by other friends. The implementation of regulating policies has had some negative effects on the low-income strata of society during the past few years. Do you not think that such effects have caused some problems for the success of the regulating policies, even if we say, for argument's sake, that the regulating policy is correct?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our plan was to increase wages for the wage earners even somewhat more than inflation. Those working for themselves will naturally set their own tariffs accordingly. For example, like the newspapers, who themselves increase their prices or increase charges for their advertisements. There are also some who earn no wages and have no income. Every year's budget has allocated a great deal of money, through the [Imam's] Relief Committee and other foundations, for them. We have also helped them a great deal. That is the policy and the plan is a comprehensive one, but you may even know of some cases that have not benefited from that; general policy has considered all the cases, but still there may be cases that we have not seen.

[British correspondent Podlin from Channel Four Television, in English] Mr. President, part of my question was answered by somebody else, but I will repeat it.

After 15 years, the model of the Islamic Republic of Iran has had no imitators and very few close friends, even in the Muslim world.

[Interpreter] He is from the British Channel Four. It is 15 years now that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been created as a model of an Islamic state. During that time very few countries have emulated Iran, and Iran has few friends in the world. Many of the Western states are still regarding Iran with animosity and great fear. Do you feel that Iran will eventually have to distinguish between the practical economic and social needs of the country, and what are the sum total of the ideologies of the country?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We really do not see any need for such a change of method. We do not think that just because the Islamic revolution has been realized our ideology is in conflict with our needs. What did occur was that because of the revolution the interests of some developed countries of the world were threatened or that of some of the non-populist powers [qheyr-e mardomi] were threatened. They stood against us. They either make false propaganda against Iran; or they imposed the war against us; or they create economic problems through economic blockades and sanctions, etc. [sentence as heard] Those things have no correlation with Iran's ideology in that form, they are mostly related to Iran's independence-seeking policy. If, within the framework of Islam we were ready to pay the foreigners the same ransom that the Pahlavi regime used to pay in the past then may be these things would not have come about. There really does not seem to be any need for a

change in ideology. The problems that you referred to were predictable for us and we are eliminating them gradually.

[Podlin] Thank you.

[Correspondent Fazel from KAR VA KARGAR] Your Excellency, you have always placed emphasis on expanding the social welfare system, alongside the implementation of economic regulation policies. However, it is witnessed that the Social Welfare Organization has cancelled a number of its undertakings to the wage-earning strata; such as the receipt of franchise from workers at present or omitting a number of medical drugs from their list of medical assistance. I would be grateful for some explanation.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course, the Social Welfare Organization has increased its payments significantly during the recent years. If you refer to the data available at the Labor Ministry, you will see that the said organization has sharply increased its payments. However, if it has reduced payments in specific areas, these reductions have been matched by increased payments to those receiving benefits and income supplements. [passage omitted]

[Fazel] I have one more question in connection with your support for the sale of factory shares to the workers. It has been witnessed that the National Industries Organization has been selling the shares of a number of factories it controls to real or corporate entities. I would be grateful if you would explain.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have a bill in this connection, which has been approved by the cabinet. According to this bill, the employees receive priority in being granted 33 percent of the factory shares. There is however a deadline involved, and if the employees do not come forward within this set deadline, then the shares can be sold to other applicants. If an arrangement different to this has been seen at any place, then the case must receive due attention.

[Fazel] Thank you.

[DALLAS MORNING NEWS correspondent, name indistinct, in English] The first question is that the government of Husni Mubarak in Egypt continues to charge Iran with financing Islamic militants... [correspondent's voice fades to interpreter]

[Interpreter] She is from the DALLAS MORNING NEWS. She has two questions. The Husni Mubarak administration still believes that Iran is responsible for the unrest by Islamists in that country. Could you make a statement on that? [passage omitted]

Second question: What are the results of the efforts that are being made by the supporters of Islam in Egypt and Algeria for overthrowing the governments of those countries? How much do you think the Iranian revolution has affected those countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As for our intervention in the internal affairs of Egypt, to be fair, it is not true. We have repeatedly asked for one instance of that to be given to us. Not one instance has been given. Some of the Egyptian media themselves have expressly said that we have no proof so far for the claims made by some of the Egyptian authorities. The same applies to Algeria.

As to our view: Our view is that people's opinion must be respected. You yourself—whether in America, Britain, or wherever—have the same claim. You yourselves seriously raise the issue of democracy, at least for others, or for yourselves, even if you do not support it. Well, when close to 70 percent of the people in Algeria voted for a group why should their vote be null and void. None of those who claim support for democracy has given an answer to that question—those same people who support the Algerian Government. In our view the correct course is to respect people's opinion. If they do not have elections they should officially say that it is a dictatorship. But those who hold elections, well, they should respect the people's vote. We seek the second alternative—that elections should be held and the vote should be respected. Then if those who come to power were unable to perform or perform badly then the people will not vote for them in the next session. That is our view.

[Correspondent, name indistinct, in English] Could you please answer the question to what extent the Islamic revolution here has had on Islamic movements in Algeria and Egypt.

[Interpreter] Could you please respond to this part of my question: To what extent has the Islamic revolution in Iran influenced the operations that go on in Egypt and Algeria.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I cannot truly specify Iran's influence now. It definitely has had some effect. Anyway, a revolution was easily successful in Iran; and in war showed valor; made the world notice; it is building its' country by itself and making it independent. Those things are inspirational for many. Of course, in Arab states there have been liberation-seeking ideas before Iran's revolution. You certainly know that in Egypt there were Islamic movements before us. When we ourselves were struggling we took inspiration from the Egyptians to a certain extent, from the era of their struggles. In Algeria the people embarked on jihad before us and liberated their country. Algeria was a progressive country. It is not so that they should now come and merely emulate us. Our path assists them also. The fact that an Islamic government was established and succeeded in going through so many conspiracies is definitely inspirational for other nations. Nations are not uninformed after all; they become informed these days. The people in the world understand many things nowadays that they did not understand before.

[Correspondent Qotbi of KEYHAN HAVA'I'] Mr. President, my colleague from HAMSHAHRI asked a question. I would like further explanation. While senior

government managers and experts refrain from giving interviews to the press, how could the press be expected to give all-round coverage of the country's policies? If you wish I could give you examples.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If it is as you say and the officials refrain from explaining, you are right in saying that you have difficulty in reporting facts. But I do not think it is so, because our ministers—each about their own sector—are ready to answer any questions and give any explanations you want. You should ask specifically and we will tell them to answer any questions you have. It is not our policy to leave any question unanswered.

[Qotbi] My second question is about the UAE [United Arab Emirates]. If we assume that the UAE, backed by super powers that support the UAE's claim, is able to somehow substantiate and legitimize that claim, what would Iran do?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The UAE could, under no circumstances, substantiate that claim, which would be acceptable by international centers, because we have very strong documents. The UAE is not even prepared to talk. We say, come and talk, but they place preconditions.

[Qotbi] I mean if they go to the Security Council and, backed by the superpowers, substantiate their claims.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] They would not achieve anything. I said at the Friday prayers once that if anyone except Iran intends to lay a hand on those islands there would be a bloodbath. Iran would under no circumstances forego that right, whoever is behind it. In our view, to whichever court it is taken, if justice prevails, the UAE would be convicted. [passage omitted]

[AL-'ALAM correspondent al-Dahrani, in Arabic] Your Excellency, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, what is your stance regarding the recent events in Yemen, especially as there have been important developments in the civil war in that country, such as the involvement of the Security Council last week, the GCC's recognition of the separation of the South, and the massing by Saudi Arabia of troops on the border with Yemen? Another question: What is the truth about the accusations made a couple of days ago by the southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid about Iran standing on the side of North Yemen? I have another question after these.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in Arabic] On the actual question of Yemen, we ourselves believe that Yemen should remain united. We are against Yemen's disintegration; but if the people of Yemen decide otherwise then Iran will take no action. But our view is that it is not in the interests of Yemen that it be disintegrated. On the allegations that we have supported one of the sides, that is totally false. We declared that we are against the civil war in Yemen and will not help either of the sides. That is usually so in all cases, let alone in the case of Yemen, which is a Muslim state and for which we have affection. We are not even prepared to help one of the sides of the civil war in a faraway country.

[Al-Dahrani, in Arabic] The second question, Mr. President, is if the criteria for your relations with the Arab countries depend on the nature of their relations with the Zionist entity, how will the Iranian Government deal with these countries, that is, the Arab countries, if they normalize relations with Tel Aviv, given that there have been several steps in this regard at the commercial and political levels?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course if they do such a thing it would affect our relations. Our relations will become somewhat weaker; but that does not mean the severance of relations. The reason we severed our relations with Egypt was because Egypt took the first step toward the Camp David agreement and the breaking of the Muslims' line of defense. That was a special move. If others also join them, we shall not cut our relations with all of them. Currently we have relations with many countries who deal with Israel. But friendship and sincerity would be damaged.

[Al-Dahrani, in Arabic] My last question is a brief one; it is about yourself. What do you intend to do once your second term as president ends? Are you thinking of taking a different job, or are you thinking of taking another political job?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] For 40 years, since I began the struggle, I have devoted myself to the revolution and to our country. At any time or in any situation, I shall do whatever I think useful for the people, and I am not particular about what that work is.

[REUTER correspondent Yusef Azmeh, in English with superimposed Persian translation] In the foreign currency sector, there have been allocations of foreign currency, import restrictions, and changes in economic policies. Also, reforms are being undertaken. I would like to know what the power of the state is in carrying out those tasks. It seems that the state has not shown much power in carrying out those tasks.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In what?

[Azmeh] In determining the foreign currency rate of exchange, import restrictions, and on the whole, the carrying out of economic reforms. I would like to know how much power the government can exert in this regard.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think that we have full power to adjust the markets. Our program in the first Five-Year Development Plan was to spend a great deal of foreign currency during the first three or four years for delayed work and infrastructure. It is in the second plan that the foreign currency commitments of the first plan will gradually be paid. The same thing has happened again. We are under the present price conditions getting $12 to $13 billion annually in hard currency for oil, and we have around $5 billion worth of nonoil exports. Our foreign currency requirements, according to our accurate calculations, are much less than they were during the first plan because now we produce many of the raw

materials, and our big tasks, such as setting up power stations, refineries, and petrochemical units, have now been carried out. We will certainly have adjustments in the market. We think that the Central Bank is capable of managing a policy for the foreign currency prices in rials to stay at a particular point that we consider appropriate.

Our foreign debts have been well scheduled. We have a debt of about $17 billion which has been scheduled from now until the year 2000. We will be repaying some $2.5 to $3 billion of our debts annually. The rest of the foreign currency will be in our own hands for our day-to-day requirements.

[Azmeh] Can I go back a moment? One of the criticisms that we hear all the time from people in Iran is that because you've been changing policies, you decided you're going to abolish different exchange rates. Now you've come back to them. You wanted to get rid of subsidies, now you've slowed down getting rid of subsidies. It's creating a lot of uncertainty in the market and a lot of uncertainty in the economy.

[Interpreter] One of the criticisms levelled against Iran that we hear is that the policies change—for example, regarding subsidies or other matters—and that creates uncertainty regarding Iran's market. What is your view about those changes of policy?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Give us instances. When we announced an adjustment, we announced a gradual adjustment. We have repeated many times that in the course of 10 years we will gradually carry out the adjustment. In the past five years, about 60 to 70 percent of the adjustment has been carried out, in, for example, bread and fuel, energy on the whole, and some pharmaceuticals. Some things remain which will be dealt with in the next five years. No change has been implemented in our economic policy in principle.

[Unidentified correspondent] There is talk of a creeping political movement aimed at weakening you and competing with you. On the other hand there are rumors about the leader rejecting your resignation. What political movement is it? Is it not one that seeks to slow down the country's economic reforms?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think those rumors are being spread in the country by counterrevolutionaries. We do not have a creeping movement seeking to weaken the government. We really do not have any organized movement. It has never occurred to me to resign, for anybody to reject my resignation. As I said, since I started my political activities 40 years ago, I decided to serve this system for the rest of my life. I will work wherever I can serve better, and at present, I can serve best as president. I think there is no better place for me to serve at present.

[Unidentified correspondent] A Majles deputy talked about it.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have not heard it. Who was it? It is definitely a lie. If he has said it somewhere, it is definitely not true, because there has been no such rumor and it would not even occur to me.

[Italian news agency correspondent Parhan] Mr. President, for some time now you have stretched the hand of unity toward Islamic countries, but there is no prospect of agreement between you and them. Do you not believe that in addition to political differences, there may be religious differences that prevent that agreement?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Do you mean sectarian differences?

[Parhan] Shiite-Sunni differences.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think it unlikely that there are Shiite- Sunni differences between Islamic countries at the government level. For our part, we do not have any. I think those gentlemen's problems are mostly political and concern their connection with large countries, such as America and Britain, and so forth, in large issues. [passage omitted]

[Interpreter] As a result of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, more than 1 million people have been made homeless. In these hard times, our people thank you for your fraternal assistance.

This is my question. A period of six months was envisaged for giving assistance to the homeless people of Azerbaijan. That period will soon expire. Does the Islamic Republic of Iran intend to continue its assistance to the Azeri people at the end of that period?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, we intend to continue the assistance as long as you need our help and we have resources. Right now you are in need and we are able to assist, to continue. [addresses audience] Well, if you have any questions, ask them.

[Unidentified member of the audience] Several questions remain.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Well, since I am still sitting here, you might as well tell me.

[Unidentified correspondent] During the imposed war, the agriculture sector showed the least vulnerability. That sector, according to experts, has enjoyed good growth. Taking into consideration economic, political, and demographic developments worldwide, where foodstuffs embody the pressure levers and strategic points, what plans have you envisaged for the development of the agriculture sector and the improvement of the situation of agricultural producers?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We envisage acceptable figures for the second plan for controlling waters, for constructing canals, for setting up drip or spray irrigation, for mechanizing and incorporating lands, for supporting agricultural intermediary industries, for supporting farmers and the guaranteed purchase of farmers' products, and much more. We hope in the second plan to

become totally self-sufficient in economic products and in some cases to be exporting.

[KYODO correspondent Yasushi Konji, in English] Mr. President, I would like to ask about the relationship between Iran and North Korea. The countries around North Korea, including Japan, now understand that that country, North Korea, is developing a nuclear weapon. Some reports say that North Korea also provides nuclear technology and ground-to-ground missiles to Iran. Other reports say these two countries are cooperating in the development of these weapons. What are your views on this issue?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That information is not correct. First, we do not intend to seek nuclear weapons. You know that the International Atomic Energy Agency visits Iran regularly and all our installations are under their inspection. They have repeatedly confirmed that Iran is planning peaceful utilization, not a military application, of nuclear technology. Second, about North Korea, we do not know at all whether they have nuclear capabilities or not. Even if they have, we are not interested in receiving such technology from anybody, no matter who.

[Konji] Mr. President, the international community regards North Korea's plan to develop nuclear weapons as a threat to peace. What is your position on this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are not in favor of nuclear weapons proliferation. Of course, alongside this, we seriously believe that others must be disarmed too. No one should possess nuclear weapons. Those who think they should possess these weapons and others should not, they are wrong. This way of thinking is dangerous for the world. Those who are threatened by nuclear weapons would think of matching the threat, and this leads to proliferation. We must all cooperate, particularly the Japanese, who were victims of a nuclear catastrophe. They should help more to eliminate nuclear weapons in the world.

[Spanish news agency correspondent Beatrice Salas, in English] Mr. President, after 15 years of the revolution the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is stable and as you say you have two thirds of the support of your people. When will it be the time for the others to express their opinion in political parties, not Islamic, please?

[Interpreter] Fifteen years after the Islamic revolution the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is stable. What will you do to convey the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran to other countries? [passage omitted] In order to convey and spread Iranian views in other countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] To the extent that we have the ability to propagate our thoughts—through our radio, through our media, through our meetings, through seminars, and through taking part in international organizations—we express our views.

[Salas] Another light question please. I come from a very happy country and I can say that colors is very important for the spirit. Can we have ladies the permission of your excellency to wear Islamic dresses? For example, your regional dresses are full of color and Islamic and not these black chadors.

[Interpreter] She asks if it is possible for ladies to make use of different colors in their dress, instead of the black chador as hejab [Islamic dress].

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course it is possible. The color black has not been chosen as an Islamic color. In Shiite history, in Islamic history the color black was used by Bani-'Abbas [the Abbasid caliphate] as their distinctive sign. We, the Shiites, had different colors. Our women are also free to choose any color they wish. They decide what they wish to wear, the same as you, who are wearing a black coat now.

[Salas] Can they wear their regional dresses?

[Interpreter] Could it also be done with their regional dresses?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It can be done everywhere. We have not chosen any color as the desired Islamic colour. In my remarks I have told the ladies that they can choose. However, in our society at the moment, black is regarded as a dignified and formal colour. Therefore, most people use it, and we have no opposition to this color.

[Salas] Thank you very much.

[NHK correspondent Re'isi, in Persian] Greetings. I have two questions. First, the course of the Middle East talks has to some extent been reactivated. Mr. 'Arafat has compared the recent PLO agreements with Israel with the Hudaibiyyah peace agreement [between Prophet Muhammad and some of his enemies in Mecca]. What are your views on this? Is Iran against the establishment of a Palestinian government led by the PLO or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not regard what is taking place as real peace. We believe it is onesided. In this way the right of the Palestinian people is being wasted. If a correct course is accepted... [pauses] Of course, these issues need to be discussed. For instance, if they accept that all the Palestinian refugees can return to Palestine and if there are free elections there—the same as took place in South Africa—then one can say that there is real goodwill toward peace. However, the way that they keep 4 or 5 million, 4 million Palestinians as refugees outside Palestine, and only raise the issue of autonomy in a small corner of Palestine, in return for which all the correct stances that which had been adopted by the Islamic and Arab world are given up, and everyone is forced to accept a compromise [sazesh]—we believe that this path will not lead to a correct outcome. We have also announced our views. However, as regards practical interference, executive action, or the physical prevention of developments—as far as these are concerned, we have

not done so and we will not do so; but our view is what we have repeatedly expressed.

Now, as to who should be in charge if a government were formed in Palestine, that is a matter for the Palestinian people. Whoever is chosen by the Palestinian people is what they have desired. At the moment, we do not know who they will elect if a small Palestinain government is formed.

[Qatar AL-RAYAH correspondent al-Azab al-Tayyib al-Tahir, in Arabic] Peace be upon you, Mr. President. Mr. President, are there any Omani efforts to overcome the current tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia? The other question is: There are currently certain ideas over the setting up of a Middle Eastern common market. What is Iran's position regarding this market, particularly in view of the fact that Iran is regarded as a would-be member country? Thank you, Mr. President.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding Saudi Arabia, we continue to take the initiative and we try to solve our problems with the [Saudi] Arabian Government and to have sincere Islamic and neighborly relations. Although we have certain complaints from them, nevertheless, in view of the importance of the issue we are trying to solve our problems.

Concerning the common market among Islamic countries, we are among those who proposed it. Of course, it requires certain political and economic groundwork, prerequisites, and conditions. It is not a very urgent matter. We spread the idea and at a good and appropriate time, God willing, it will be implemented.

[KEYHAN correspondent Habibzadeh] Peace be upon you. Your Excellency, Mr. Rafsanjani, unfortunately, the issue of the three Persian Gulf islands has been turned into a complex question. It seems that this matter has been excessively prolonged and others are misusing the issue. Has the Islamic Republic of Iran any plans for settling this matter?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The issue of the islands?

[Habibzadeh] Yes.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our proposal was... [pauses] We invited the UAE foreign minister to come here for discussions, returning the visit of Mr. Velayati, who went there. We believe that bilateral talks are the solution to the problem. This is our plan.

[Correspondent, name indistinct] Mr. President, can you say that you and your government have no opposition to you inside the country?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have opposition. Why should we claim otherwise? We have counterrevolutionaries, both inside and outside the country. There are also some who are not counterrevolutionaries but who do not accept government policies and oppose them. They are active too. Look at all the magazines and publications in Iran and see how much opposition there is.

[Correspondent] What is the policy of the Government of Iran on Kashmiri Muslims?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] On Kashmiris, our initial view was that UN resolutions should be implemented, that India and Pakistan should cooperate, and that, in accordance with UN resolutions, the rights of the people of Kashmir should be realized.

[Muhammad Mahdi from Lebanon] Peace be upon you. Your Excellency, Mr. President, in the Middle East region talks and negotiations are under way between Arab governments and Israel on ways of solving what is known as the Arab-Israeli conflict. How do you see this settlement in general, and do you think that there are any other ways apart from military means to end this conflict? Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have already answered a part of your question. As to various methods, whether they should be military or nonmilitary, we also regard it as possible that one may use other weapons and other means in order to regain the rights of the Palestinians. We accept that such a possibility exists. If the issue is taken seriously, we will be able to put forward some clear proposals.

[JAHAN-E EQTESAD correspondent Bitaraf] I hope you are not too tired. Concerning youth, as we can see in society not much has been done, although newspapers write about it and officials make announcements. What are your views regarding the youth issue? This is my first question.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I am also aware of this issue. The needs of the young people are greater than what we are doing for them at the moment. We have started fundamental work in the Supreme Youth Council. We have started discussions on all the different issues that concern the young, such as guidance, sports, radio and television, employment, marriage, and other similar topics that will be gradually announced. I think this will be a long-term undertaking. It is difficult for us to achieve satisfactory results immediately in all these issues.

[Correspondent Bitaraf] Your Excellency, Mr. President, during the first plan the stock market was in practice not included in the course of privatization [as heard]. Do you have any plans for reactivating the stock market during the second plan or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] To say that it was not included is not correct. We attached importance to the stock market in the first plan. During the first two years, the stock market became very active. After the revolution, the stock market declined during the war. During the first plan it was made active. It stagnated for a couple of years, but again during last year the stock market has been active. A few days ago, when I opened the computerized site of the stock market, it was reported to me that in the entire period before the revolution they had 190 billion rials of dealings in the stock market, but during

the past five years of the first plan they have had 1,500 billion rials worth of dealings. During last year we have had the highest figure. I think that during the second plan as the factories come into production the stock market will be made more active. Our factories were in a bad state during the war. The stock market does not accept [as heard]. Many factories wish to participate, but they could not provide the necessary degree of confidence that the stock market requires. In the past five years, the performance of many companies and factories has gradually improved. The stock market admits them with greater speed. I think that during the second plan we shall witness a more satisfactory growth.

Is that all? Well, we thank you for your patience and we hope that the issues that were raised here will be reflected in the media truthfully and correctly. God be with you. Goodbye.

Jannati Accuses Saudis of 'Blackmail'

LD1006110394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] In his Friday prayers sermons in Tehran today, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the acting Friday prayers leader of Tehran, stressed: The Saudis act in harmony with America, and their inability to stage and manage the magnificent hajj rites has now become abundantly clear.

The acting Friday prayers leader of Tehran referred to King Fahd's remarks on 'Id al-Qurban [Feast of the Immolation—20 May 1994], saying: By exploiting the resolvable differences between Iran and the United Arab Emirates concerning the Abu Musa Island, the Saudis seek to blackmail us. Although they constantly state that hajj is not a stage for political issues, nonetheless Fahd, in his speech on 'Id al-Qurban, tried to achieve the political objectives of the Saudi Government.

Ayatollah Jannati then referred to the Enjoining Good, Prohibiting Vice Week, which is to start on 11 June and called for the media to pay serious attention to this principle so as to clarify and explain it to the public. He emphasized the need for everyone to be sensitive toward this principle, and said: In the fight against vice, one must not stop at peripheral issues; instead, efforts must be made to resolutely confront the fundamental vices that constitute the root of corruption. In this way, major sources of corruption must be pursued and dealt with.

In another part of his remarks, the acting Friday prayers leader of Tehran alluded to the government's recent call to retailers to place price tags on their goods. He said: We hope that this step may constitute a good method for confronting those responsible for high prices.

He also referred to the occasion of Muharram [first month in lunar calendar] and said that extensive mourning ceremonies should be staged in the best possible way during this period. He added: Just as the eminent leader of the revolution has said, during this month, one must refrain from superstitious acts.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.